DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 192 571 FL 011 700

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TITLE	Sinhala: Basic Course. Module 3: Sinhala Structures.
INSTITUTION	Foreign Service (Dept. of State), Washington, D.C. Foreign Service Inst.
PUB DATE	79
NOTE	94p.: For related documents, see FL 011 698-699. Photographs will not reproduce well.
AVAILABLE FROM	Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (No. 044-000-01766-1, $4.25)
LANGUAGE	English: Singhalese
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Form Classes (Languages): *Grammar: Learning Modules: Phonology: Postsecondary Education: Second Language Instruction: *Singhalese

ABSTRACT

This course on the language of Sri Lanka is intended to be taken under a Sinhala-speaking instructor. The present module is intended as a reference manual on Sinhala structures which will supplement and expand on the brief notes that appear in Module 2 (see related documents). After a brief explanation of the Sinhala sound system, the grammatical system is described under the following main headings: introduction to nouns, cases, definite and indefinite forms of the noun, basic classes of verbs, present tense forms, present verbal adjective form, past tense forms, infinitive form, participle, participial adjective, forms of verbs ("when," "if," "even if," "although," etc.), relationships among verbs, clause subordinator, nouns derived from verbs, adjectives, pronouns, postpositions, particles, numerals and quantity, word boundaries, spelling, and style and dialect. (JB)

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ED192571

Sinhala

BASIC COURSE

MODULE 3

SINHALA STRUCTURES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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FL 011 700

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 2 1980

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE
BASIC COURSE SERIES
Edited by
MARIANNE LEHR ADAMS

FOREWORD

This is the third volume of Basic Sinhala, a course for the beginning student which is presented in three modules:

I Beginning Signs and Letters
II General Conversation
III Sinhala Structures

Many individuals and institutions, both here and in Sri Lanka, were instrumental in bringing this series of lessons to its present form. Acknowledgments are made in the foreword to the second module, General Conversation.

This module is intended as a reference manual on Sinhala structures which will supplement and expand on the brief notes which appear in module II, General Conversation. At the present time most of the students for whom Basic Sinhala has been prepared begin the study of Sinhala after they arrive in Sri Lanka. The organization of language instruction there differs in some important ways from that at the Foreign Service Institute. Generally all aspects of course presentation and design are the responsibility of the classroom teacher. The teacher presents the structural analysis of the language to the students, writes and presents special materials as required by individual needs, and conducts the actual audio-lingual instruction. The number of students involved in basic Sinhala courses at any given time is limited to a small official staff, but the specific goals and needs of the students, ranging from the language of agricultural development to that of cultural affairs to that necessary simply to answer the Embassy phones in the evening, are so disparate as to place demands on the classroom teacher way out of proportion to their numbers. This module has been revised in consultation with the classroom teachers at the Embassy with the following objectives in mind: (1) to simplify the task of presenting Sinhala structures in class and thereby to free the teacher for other work; (2) to enable the teacher to write additional materials on new topics as required by student needs without constructing an entirely new course, and (3) to assist the student in assigned homework and review.

Grammar is considered a dry topic by some and a fearsome one by many others. For either audience we hope these pages have been relieved somewhat by the pictures of other kinds of "Sinhala structures" which were generously provided to us by the Ceylon Tourist Board.

Bonnie Graham MacDougall
Ithaca, New York
April 1979

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I THE SOUND SYSTEM

Sinhala has twenty-five consonants which are arranged below according to point and manner of articulation.

		lab.	den.	alv.	ret.	pal.	vel.	glot.
Stops	voiceless	p	t		T	c	k	
	voiced	b	d		D	j	g	
	pre-nasalized	ᵐb	ⁿd		ᶯD		ᵑg	
Spirants		f	s			ś		h
Nasals		m	n			ñ		
Liquids				l				
				r				
Semivowels		w				y		

The following vowels occur in Sinhala both short and long.

i		u
e	ə	o
æ		a

As the chart on the preceding page should suggest, the sound system of Sinhala is not sharply divergent from that of English. In fact, many, if not most of the sounds in Sinhala can be identified with those in English without obstructing communication, although this should not be taken to mean that Sinhala speakers will regard the pronunciation as accentless.

The similarities between the two languages notwithstanding, there are some areas of the Sinhala sound system which are not reminiscent of English and to which the learner will have to pay particular attention. They are treated below.

1. The contrast between dental and retroflex stops.

The Sinhala dental stops /t/ and /d/ are articulated against the tooth ridge. The retroflex stops are articulated in a more retracted position. English t and d are normally identified with the Sinhala retroflex stops rather than with the dental ones. Examples are abundant in numerous English loan words in Sinhala. Examples:

මැජස්ටික්	Majestic (name of a Colombo theater)
ජෙටිය	jetty
හෝටලේ	hotel
කෝට්	coats
ග්‍රෑන්ඩ්පාස්	Grandpass, a municipal ward in Colombo

2. The contrast between nasal + consonant and nasalized consonant.

As the chart on the preceding page shows, Sinhala has four pre-nasalized consonants (m̆b, n̆d, n̆D and ŋ̆g) which contrast with the following consonant clusters: mb, nd, nD and ng. Examples of the contrast appear below.

කොළඹ	Colombo	කොලොම්මුව	wooden stool
කඳ	tree trunk	කන්ද	hill
මඩල	circle	මණ්ඩලය	circle

Failure to master this contrast completely is not likely to result in embarassing bloopers, since it appears that there are not a large number of paired words with highly divergent meanings which are distinguished in this way. The contrast, however, often has grammatical significance. Singular and plural forms of the same word are sometimes distinguished in this way: for example circle/circles above.

3. The contrast between single and doubled consonants.

In Sinhala most consonants occur both singly and doubled in the middle of words between vowels. The only exceptions are the nasalized stops, /f/, /ś/, /h/ and /r/ which occur only singly. The contrast occurs only medially. It does not appear either in word initial or in word final position.

Mastry of this contrast is of great importance for the learner. There are a large number of paired words which are distinguished in this way. (An extensive list of examples appears in General Conversation pp. 5-7). This contrast is important not simply because the list of words which show it is long, but also because those words occur with high frequency in conversation. Moreover, the contrast has grammatical significance. An adjectival verb form shows single /n/, for example, whereas the infinitive form shows /nn/. Examples are given below.

යන	going	යන්න	to go
බොන	drinking	බොන්න	to drink
කන	eating	කන්න	to eat

4. Sinhala vowels and syllable-timed rhythm.

English has a system of stresses which marks differences in word meanings (insight, incite), and which also determines the quality of some vowels and times the rhythm of the sentence. In the English stress-timed rhythm the time required to proceed from one main stress to another is roughly equal regardless of the number of intervening syllables. Vowels in those syllables which intervene between primary stresses are likely to be "reduced". Sinhala does not have this system. Rhythm is syllable timed, that is, syllables are roughly equal in length. Vowels should be pronounced with "full value", that is, as spelled. For example, මෙහේ, 'here', not මහේ . කොළොම්බුව, 'stool'; not කලම්බුව , and so forth.

II THE GRAMMATICAL SYSTEM

1. Nouns

1.1. Introduction

Many of the distinctions made in the Sinhala nominal system will seem logical and familiar to the speaker of English. As in English, the noun is marked for number, that is as either singular or plural. Nouns are also marked for definiteness, a grammatical category which is handled in English with preceding articles, i.e., the book (definite), a book (indefinite).

There are two broad categories of nouns in Sinhala, animate and inanimate. The former refers to people and animals and the latter includes all other nouns. Certain kinds of relationships between nouns and verbs are marked in Sinhala with case endings. Subjects of sentences are generally in the direct case, an unmarked form of the noun which is the one entered in dictionaries. Other case categories include the dative (the form for the indirect object), genitive (the possessive form) and the instrumental. Nouns in Sinhala can be categorized according to the form of the case endings. The basic division is between animate and inanimate nouns. Inanimate nouns are further subdivided into four classes.

1.2. Sample paradigms of Sinhala nouns

The generalizations which appear in 1.1 are illustrated below with representative forms. The inflected forms of the Sinhala noun are illustrated with five paradigms, each of which represents a major class of nouns.

A. මහත්තයා the gentleman

	singular definite forms	
direct	මහත්තයා	the gentleman
dative	මහත්තයාට	to the gentleman
genitive	මහත්තයාගේ	of the gentleman
instrumental	මහත්තයාගෙන්	by the gentleman

singular indefinite forms

direct	මහත්තයෙක්	a gentleman
dative	මහත්තයෙකුට	to a gentleman
genitive	මහත්තයෙකුගේ	of a gentleman
instrumental	මහත්තයෙකුගෙන්	by a gentleman

plural forms

direct	මහත්තුරු	gentlemen
dative	මහත්තුරුන්ට	to gentlemen
genitive	මහත්තුරුන්ගේ	of gentlemen
instrumental	මහත්තුරුන්ගෙන්	by gentlemen

B. පොත the book

singular definite forms

direct	පොත	the book
dative	පොතට	to the book
genitive	පොතේ	of the book
instrumental	පොතෙන්	by the book

singular indefinite forms

direct	පොතක්	a book
dative	පොතකට	to a book
genitive	පොතක	of a book
instrumental	පොතකින්	by a book

plural forms

direct	පොත්	books
dative	පොත්වලට	to books
genitive	පොත්වල	of books
instrumental	පොත්වලින්	by books

C. බස් එක the bus

singular definite forms

direct	බස් එක	the bus
dative	බස් එකට	to the bus
genitive	බස් එකේ	of the bus
instrumental	බස් එකෙන්	by the bus

singular indefinite forms

direct	බස් එකක්	a bus
dative	බස් එකකට	to a bus
genitive	බස් එකක	of a bus
instrumental	බස් එකකින්	by a bus

plural forms

direct	බස්	busses
dative	බස්වලට	to busses
genitive	බස්වල	of busses
instrumental	බස්වලින්	by busses

D. හෝටලේ the hotel (sometimes also spelled හෝටලය, the base for the indefinite forms -- see below.)

singular definite forms

direct	හෝටලේ	the hotel
dative	හෝටලේට	to the hotel
genitive	හෝටලේ	of the hotel
instrumental	හෝටලෙන්	by the hotel

singular indefinite forms

direct	හෝටලයක්	a hotel
dative	හෝටලයකට	to a hotel
genitive	හෝටලයක	of a hotel
instrumental	හෝටලයකින්	by a hotel

plural forms

direct	හෝටල්	hotels
dative	හෝටල්වලට	to hotels
genitive	හෝටල්වල	of hotels
instrumental	හෝටල්වලින්	by hotels

E. ගෙදර house

singular definite forms

direct	ගෙදර	the house
dative	ගෙදරට	to the house
genitive	ගෙදර	of the house
instrumental	ගෙදරින්	by the house

	singular indefinite forms	
direct	ගෙදරක්	a house
dative	ගෙදරකට	to a house
genitive	ගෙදරක	of a house
instrumental	ගෙදරකින්	by a house

	plural forms	
direct	ගෙදරවල්	houses
dative	ගෙදරවල්වලට	to houses
genitive	ගෙදරවල්වල	of houses
instrumental	ගෙදරවල්වලින්	by houses

The noun forms given above are representative ones, that is, the rest of the nouns in Sinhala are declined like one of those given above. All animate nouns show endings like 'the gentleman', in paradigm A. As for inanimate nouns, in order to know which one of the remaining classes a particular noun belongs to, one must know the direct definite singular form and the genitive definite singular form. These forms vary according to class. In order to predict all the forms of a particular noun, one must know these two forms and the direct plural form as well. Directions for forming other forms from these basic ones are given below.

1.21 A nouns: nouns declined like මහත්තයා 'the gentleman'

Nouns belonging to the class illustrated by මහත්තයා, 'the gentleman', are all animate nouns. The following are examples of nouns which belong to this particular class.

මහත්තයා	the gentleman
නංගි	the younger sister
අම්මා	the mother
මිනිහා	the man

Important characteristics of A nouns

a. The genitive case ending is ගේ

b. The instrumental case ending is ගෙන්

Examples of A nouns in sentences

මහත්තයා නුවරට යනවා.	The gentleman is going to Kandy.
අම්මා කොළඹ ඉන්නවා.	Mother lives in Colombo.
තාත්තා ආණ්ඩුවේ වැඩ කරනවා.	Father works for the government.
අම්මාගේ අයියා ගෙදර ගියා.	Mother's elder brother went home.

Further information on the formation of A noun case forms appears in 1.3.

1.22 B nouns: nouns declined like පොත 'the book'.

This class of inanimate nouns is the most important one because it has the largest membership. One can usually assume that a noun ending in ඇ belongs to class B. Examples:

පාර	the road
ලංකාව	Sri Lanka
අමෙරිකාව	America
කූල්ල	the winnowing basket
ලාම්පුව	the lamp
කට	the mouth

Important characteristics of B nouns

a. The direct definite singular ends in ඇ

b. The genitive definite singular ends in ේ

c. The instrumental definite singular ends in ෙන්

Examples of B nouns in sentences:

මහත්තයා ආවේ අමෙරිකාවෙන්.	The gentleman came from America.
මම ඉපදුනේ ලංකාවේ.	I was born in Sri Lanka.
මේ පාර යන්නේ නුවරට.	This road goes to Kandy.

1.23 C nouns: nouns declined like බස් එක 'the bus'.

Nouns which belong to this class end in එක . Many words from English have been borrowed into Sinhala as class C nouns. The following Sinhala nouns belong to class C:

කාර් එක	the car
ටෙලිෆෝන් එක	the telephone
ෆොටෝ එක	the photo
ලිෆ්ට් එක	the elevator

Important characteristics of C nouns

a. The direct definite singular form ends in එක.

b. The plural direct form can be formed from the direct definite singular form by removing එක. Examples

බස් එක	singular direct definite form
බස්	plural direct

c. The instrumental definite singular ends in එකෙන් Example:

බස් එකෙන්	by the bus

d. The genitive definite singular ends in එකේ Example:

බස් එකේ	of the bus

Examples of C nouns in sentences

බස් එකෙන් යන්න පුලුවන් ද?	Can (you) go by bus?
ටෝච් එකක් තියෙනවා ද?	Is there a flashlight?
මහත්තයා ලඟ ටිකට් එකක් තියෙනවා ද?	Do you have a ticket, sir?

1.24 D nouns: nouns declined like හෝටලේ 'the hotel'

Important characteristics of D nouns

The direct definite singular form and the genitive definite singular form of D nouns end in ේ . The dictionary entry form given in () below is generally spelled with -අය , however.

උත්තරේ (උත්තරය)	the answer
කාලේ (කාලය)	the time, period
මේසේ (මේසය)	the table

Examples of D nouns in sentences

අපි ආවේ හෝටලෙන්.	We came from the hotel.
ගොයම් කපන කාලෙට ගැනු කුඹුරට කෑම ගෙනියනවා.	At paddy cutting time, women take food to the field.

1.25 E nouns: nouns declined like ගෙදර 'the house'

In the direct definite singular, all E nouns end in ෙ. The following Sinhala nouns belong to class E:

ගෙදර	the house
කොළඹ	Colombo
මැද	the middle
හවස	the afternoon

Important characteristics of E nouns

a. The direct definite singular and the genitive definite singular forms end in ේ.

b. The instrumental definite singular ends in ෙගන්.

c. The class has a very limited membership. Most nouns with direct case endings in ේ belong to class B.

Examples of E nouns in sentences

මහත්තයා ගෙදර ඉන්නවා ද?	Is the gentleman in the house?
හෙට මම කොළඹට යනවා.	I am going to Colombo tomorrow.

THE RUVANVELI DAGABA FROM A DISTANCE WITH THE JETAVANARAMAYA DAGABA (3rd CENTURY A.D.) TO THE RIGHT. FOREGROUND, THE NUWARA WEWA, THE LARGEST TANK IN ANURADHAPURA (3000 ACRES).

1.3 The cases

1.31 The direct case

Direct case forms may be singular indefinite, singular definite or plural. Thus, පොත, 'the book', පොතක්, 'a book', and පොත්, 'books', are all direct case forms.

Subjects of verbs are in the direct case. For example:

පාරක් තියෙනවා.	There is a road.
මම ඉන්නේ නුවර.	I live in Kandy.
තාත්තා ඉන්දියාවට යනවා.	Father is going to India.
මහත්තයා ආවේ අමෙරිකාවෙන්.	The gentleman came from America.

Direct objects of verbs are also usually in the direct case.

මහත්තයා ලියුම් එවනවා.	The gentleman sends letters.
මහත්තයා ලියුමක් එවනවා.	The gentleman is sending a letter.
මහත්තයා ලියුම එවනවා.	The gentleman is sending the letter.

The direct definite singular form is the one a Sinhala gives when asked for the translation of an English word. It is also the form entered in dictionaries.

1.32 The dative case

The dative case ending is ට. Dative case forms may be singular definite, singular indefinite or plural. The dative case in Sinhala most often translates the English 'to somewhere, something or someone.' Thus, a dative case form is equatable with what is sometimes called the indirect object. Examples:

මම අමෙරිකාවට යනවා.	I am going to America.
මම අර ගමට ගියා.	I went to that village.
මම මල්ලිට සල්ලි දුන්නා.	I gave money to younger brother.
මම ගමකට යනවා.	I am going to a village.
මම හේන්වලට යනවා.	I am going to the chenas.

1.321 Use

Sometimes dative case forms translate into English as indirect objects, as in the examples above. Sometimes they equate with other structures, as in the examples below.

For instance, with the verb ඕනෑ 'want', the actor is in the dative case. Examples:

මට අමෙරිකාවට යන්න ඕනෑ.	I want to go to America.
මට ටිකට් එකක් ගන්න ඕනෑ.	I want to get a ticket.
මහත්තයාට තේ බොන්න ඕනෑ.	The gentleman wants to drink tea.

The actors in sentences with පුලුවන් 'can' and බෑ 'cannot', are also in the dative case. Examples:

මට සිංහල කතාකරන්න පුලුවන්.	I can speak Sinhala.
මට ඉංග්‍රීසි කියවන්න පුලුවන්.	I can read English.
මහත්තයාට කාර් එලවන්න පුලුවන්.	The gentleman can drive cars.
මල්ලිට ඉන්දියාවට යන්න පුලුවන්.	Younger brother can go to India.
මට සිංහල කතාකරන්න බෑ.	I cannot speak Sinhala.
මහත්තයාට වැඩ කරන්න බෑ.	The gentleman cannot work.
නංගිට අමෙරිකාවට යන්න බෑ.	Younger sister cannot go to America.

The dative case form is used in construction with the verbs ඉන්නවා and තියෙනවා 'be', to produce the meaning 'have' or 'have to'. Examples:

මට සල්ලි තියෙනවා.	I have money (lit., there is money to me.).
මහත්තයාට බල්ලෙක් ඉන්නවා.	The gentleman has a dog (lit., there is a dog to the gentleman).

With a dependent infinitive තියෙනවා takes on the meaning 'have to'. Examples:

මට ගෙදර යන්න තියෙනවා.	I have to go home
මට කාර් එකෙන් යන්න තියෙනවා.	I have to go by car.
මට හාල් ගන්න තියෙනවා.	I have to buy rice.
මහත්තයාට වැඩ කරන්න තියෙනවා.	The gentleman has to work.

1.322 Formation of dative case forms

In the singular definite, the dative case ending is added to the direct definite singular form. Thus, ගෙදර + ට = ගෙදරට පාර + ට = පාරට , පුතා + ට = පුතාට.
This rule applies to both animate and inanimate nouns. The formula for forming the dative indefinite singular for inanimate nouns is direct indefinite singular form + ෙ + ට.

For animate nouns the formula is: direct indefinite singular form + ු + ට.

Examples:

ගෙදරක්	a house	ගෙදරකට	to a house
පාරක්	a road	පාරකට	to a road
බල්ලෙක්	a dog	බල්ලෙකුට	to a dog
මිනිහෙක්	a man	මිනිහෙකුට	to a man

In the plural the dative case ending is added to the plural stem. For inanimate nouns the plural stem is identical with the genitive plural (see 1.3323). For example, එලවලුවල + ට = එලවලුවලට 'to the vegetables'; ගෙදරවල්වල + ට = ගෙදරවල්වලට 'to the houses'. You can look at the formation of the dative plural of inanimate nouns in another way: the ending වලට is added to the direct plural form. Thus, ගෙදරවල් + වලට = ගෙදරවල්වලට 'to the houses', and so forth.

With animate nouns, the dative case ending is also added to the plural stem. If the direct plural form ends in ලා , the plural stem is identical with the direct plural. Thus:

plural stem	dative plural	
නංගිලා	නංගිලාට	to the younger sisters
මල්ලිලා	මල්ලිලාට	to the younger brothers

If the direct plural form of an animate noun ends in ඔ , the stem ends in අන් . If it ends in ු , the stem ends in උන් .

Look at the examples below.

direct plural		plural stem	plural dative
මහත්තුරු	gentlemen	මහත්තුරුන්	මහත්තුරුන්ට
කුකුලෝ	chickens	කුකුලන්	කුකුලන්ට
කොල්ලෝ	boys	කොල්ලන්	කොල්ලන්ට
බල්ලෝ	dogs	බල්ලන්	බල්ලන්ට
අරගොල්ලෝ	those people	අරගොල්ලන්	අරගොල්ලන්ට

The rules above will generate dative forms of all classes. Review the sample paradigms and look at the dative case forms which appear.

1.33 The genitive case
1.331 Use

Nouns in the genitive case often show possession. Examples:

මගේ පොත.	My book.
තාත්තගේ දුව.	Father's daughter.
මහත්තයාගේ රස්සාව.	The gentlemen's job.
පොතේ කවරය.	The cover of the book.
ගෙදර දොර.	The door of the house.

In some instances they show location and translate the English 'on or in something'. Examples:

මම වැඩ කරන්නේ ආණ්ඩුවේ.	I work in the government.
මහත්තයා වැඩ කරන්නේ හෝටලේ.	The gentleman works in the hotel.
මම ඉන්නේ ගෙදරක.	I live in a house.

1.332 Formation of genitive case forms

Definite singular forms of the genitive must be memorized. For some classes of nouns they are predictable from the direct singular form, and for other classes they are not.

1.3321 Genitive definite singular forms.

In the genitive definite singular, class A nouns take the ending ගේ . This ending is added to the direct definite singular form. Examples:

direct definite singular		genitive definite singular
මහත්තයා	gentleman	මහත්තයාගේ
දුව	daughter	දුවගේ
නංගි	younger sister	නංගිගේ

For nouns ending in අ one cannot determine the class by looking at the direct definite singular. Both B and E nouns have direct definite singular forms in අ . If the noun is class E like ගෙදර 'house', the genitive definite singular form is identical with the direct. If the noun is class B like පොත 'the book', the genitive definite singular ends in ේ , i.e., පොතේ.

For class C nouns like බස් එක 'the bus', the genitive definite singular form is predictable. It ends in ේ , i.e., බස් එකේ .

If the noun is class D like හෝටලේ 'the hotel', the genitive definite singular form is also predictable. It is identical with the direct.

1.3322 Genitive indefinite singular forms

For inanimate nouns the formula is indefinite direct form plus අ.

direct indefinite		genitive indefinite	
පොතක්	a book	පොතක	of a book
හෝටලයක්	a hotel	හෝටලයක	of a hotel
ගෙදරක්	a house	ගෙදරක	of a house
පාරක්	a road	පාරක	of a road

The formula for the genitive indefinite form of animate nouns is indefinite direct form + ුගේ . Examples:

direct indefinite		genitive indefinite	
බල්ලෙක්	a dog	බල්ලෙකුගේ	of a dog
කොල්ලෙක්	a boy	කොල්ලෙකුගේ	of a boy
බළලෙක්	a cat	බළලෙකුගේ	of a cat

1.3323 Genitive plural forms
The formula for genitive plural forms of inanimate nouns is direct plural form + වල . Examples:

direct plural		genitive plural	
එලවලු	vegetables	එලවලුවල	of vegetables
ගෙදරවල්	houses	ගෙදරවල්වල	of houses
හේන්	chenas	හේන්වල	of chenas

The formula for the genitive plural of animate nouns is plural stem (cf. 1.32) + ගේ . Sometimes the plural stem is identical with the direct plural (see 1.32). For instance, in the case of direct plurals ending in ලා :

direct plural		plural stem	plural genitive
නංගිලා	younger sisters	නංගිලා	නංගිලාගේ
අයියලා	older brothers	අයියලා	අයියලාගේ

Often however, the plural stem is not identical with any case form. For example:

direct plural		plural stem	plural genitive
මහත්තුරු	gentlemen	මහත්තුරුන්	මහත්තුරුන්ගේ
බල්ලෝ	dogs	බල්ලන්	බල්ලන්ගේ
කොල්ලෝ	boys	කොල්ලන්	කොල්ලන්ගේ

With ු and ෝ plurals, note above in 1.32 that the formula for the plural stem is direct plural form, minus the final vowel plus either ුන් or අන් . If the direct plural ends in ු , add ුන් for the stem; if it ends in ෝ , add අන් .

1.34 The instrumental case

1.341 Use

Instrumental case forms are generally translated into English as 'by, with or from something.' Appropriate translations vary.

මම කෝච්චියෙන් ගියා.	I went by train.
මේ බඩුවලින් සමහරක් මගේ.	Some of these goods are mine.
එයා ආවේ අමෙරිකාවෙන්.	He came from America.

1.342 Formation of instrumental case forms.

1.3421 Instrumental definite singular forms.

For inanimate nouns the instrumental forms end in either ඉන් or එන් . Examples:

definite singular:	direct		instrumental
Class B nouns	පොත	book	පොතෙන්
Class C nouns	කාර් එක	car	කාර් එකෙන්
Class D nouns	මේසේ	table	මේසෙන්
Class E nouns	ගෙදර	house	ගෙදරින්

Look back at the sample paradigms given above in 1.2.

The formula for the instrumental definite singular form of animate nouns is direct definite singular form plus ගෙන් . Examples:

direct		instrumental
එයා	he	එයාගෙන්
කෙල්ල	girl	කෙල්ලගෙන්

1.3422 Instrumental indefinite singular forms.

For inanimate nouns the formula is direct indefinite singular form plus ඉන් . Examples:

indefinite singular:	direct		instrumental
	පොතක්	a book	පොතකින්
	ගෙදරක්	a house	ගෙදරකින්

For animate nouns the formula is direct indefinite singular form plus ඌගෙන් . Examples:

direct indefinite singular		instrumental indefinite singular
පුතෙක්	a son	පුතෙකුගෙන්
දුවෙක්	a daughter	දුවෙකුගෙන්

1.3423 Instrumental plural forms

With inanimate nouns the formula for the instrumental plural is plural direct form + වලින් . Examples:

direct plural		instrumental plural
ගෙදරවල්	houses	ගෙදරවල්වලින්
පොත්	books	පොත්වලින්
හේන්	chenas	හේන්වලින්

The formula for the instrumental plural of animate nouns is plural stem + ගෙන් . Examples:

direct plural		plural stem	instrumental plural
මහත්තුරු	gentlemen	මහත්තුරුන්	මහත්තුරුන්ගෙන්
නංගිලා	younger sisters	නංගිලා	නංගිලාගෙන්

1.4 Definite and indefinite forms of the noun

Definiteness and indefiniteness are marked only in the singular The definite forms such as පාර, 'road', බස් එක 'bus', and නගුල 'plow', may be translated as 'road, bus, plow' or 'the road, the bus, the plow'. Indefinite forms such as පාරක් , බස් එකක් , and නගුලක් , are best translated as 'a road, a bus, a plow'.

The direct indefinite of inanimate nouns ends in අක් . Examples:

direct indefinite form	
ගෙදරක්	a house
ගමක්	a village
රටක්	a country

The direct indefinite of animate nouns ends in එක් . Examples:

direct indefinite form	
බල්ලෙක්	a dog
පුතෙක්	a son

Formulas for the formation of all definite and indefinite case forms have appeared in 1.3.

1.5 Animate and inanimate nouns: agreement

As previously noted in 1.2, animate nouns are declined differently than those which are inanimate. There are also differences in agreement, some of which are given below.

1.51 තියෙනවා and ඉන්නවා 'be'.

Examples:

මල්ලිලා ඉන්නවා.	There are younger brothers.
කාර් තියෙනවා.	There are cars.

The verbs තියෙනවා and ඉන්නවා both mean 'be'. Forms of the verb තියෙනවා may only be used with subjects which are inanimate. ඉන්නවා is used only with animate subjects.

1.52 Animate and inanimate nouns and quantity.

There are animate numerals and inanimate numerals. Animate numerals either modify or are substituted for animate nouns. Inanimate numerals either modify or are substituted for inanimate nouns. Examples:

මහත්තුරු තුන් දෙනෙක් ඉන්නවා.	There are three gentlemen.
කාර් තුනක් තියෙනවා.	There are three cars.
තුන් දෙනෙක් ඉන්නවා.	There are three (animate)
තුනක් තියෙනවා.	There are three (inanimate).

මහත්තයෙක්	a gentleman	ගෙදරක්	a house
මහත්තුරු දෙන්නෙක්	2 gentlemen	ගෙදරවල් දෙකක්	2 houses
මහත්තුරු තුන් දෙනෙක්	3 gentlemen	ගෙදරවල් තුනක්	3 houses
මහත්තුරු හතර දෙනෙක්	4 gentlemen	ගෙදරවල් හතරක්	4 houses
මහත්තුරු පස් දෙනෙක්	5 gentlemen	ගෙදරවල් පහක්	5 houses
මහත්තුරු හය දෙනෙක්	6 gentlemen	ගෙදරවල් හයක්	6 houses

Other numeral forms appear in 6.

ENTRANCE TO DAMBULLA ROCK TEMPLES

2. Verbs

2.1 Basic classes. Sinhala verbs fall into three main classes:

1. Verbs with a stem vowel ෙ. Example: කපනවා 'cut'
2. Verbs with a stem vowel ේ. Example: වැටෙනවා 'fall'
3. Verbs with a stem vowel ි. Example: බඳිනවා 'bind'

The verb forms given above are simple present tense forms. The simple present tense form is the one entered in most Sinhala dictionaries.

The formula for the stem of a Sinhala verb is simple present tense form minus නවා . The vowel on the end of this stem is called the stem vowel. For most verbs all forms are predictable once the stem vowel is known although there is a small list of "irregular verbs" (which regrettably for the learner are those of highest frequency). The first vowel in the stem is called the root vowel. Make a note of the stem and root vowels in the verb forms given above.

2.2 Present tense forms

2.21 The simple present tense or නවා form. Examples:

මම ගෙදර යනවා.	I am going home.
ගල් හතරක් තියෙනවා.	There are four stones.
මල්ලි මෙහාට එනවා.	Younger brother is coming in this direction.
අම්මා බත් උයනවා.	Mother cooks rice.
ඉස්කෝලේ මහත්තයා සිංහල උගන්නනවා.	The schoolmaster teaches Sinhala.

2.22 The emphatic present tense or න්නේ form.

මම යන්නේ ගෙදර.	It is home that I am going.
මම කන්නේ මස්.	It is meat that I am eating.
යන්නේ කොහේ ද?	Where are (you) going?
කරන්නේ මොනවා ද?	What are (you) doing?

Both the නවා and the න්නේ forms are present tense forms. Usually the use of the න්නේ form means that some item other than the verb in the sentence is singled out for emphasis. Examples:

a. කන්තෝරුව අට්ට අරිනවා.	The office opens at 8:00.
b. කන්තෝරුව අරින්නේ අට්ට.	It is at 8:00 that the office opens.
a. එයා හවස ආපහු එනවා.	He is coming back in the evening.
b. එයා ආපහු එන්නේ හවස.	It is in the evening that he is coming back.

In the "b" sentences above, the words අට්ට and හවස are singled out for emphasis. In the "a" sentences no particular item is singled out for emphasis.

2.23 The question marker and present tense forms

The question marker ද may follow the නවා form of the verb. Examples:

මහත්තයා ගෙදර යනවා ද?	Is the gentleman going home?
වතුර බොනවා ද?	Are (you) drinking water?
සල්ලි තියෙනවා ද?	Is there money?

But the question marker ද never follows the න්නේ form of the verb. It always goes after some other item in the sentence, usually the emphasized one. Examples?

එයා ගෙදර එන්නේ හවස ද?	Is it in the evening that he is coming home?
කන්තෝරුව වහන්නේ අට්ට ද?	Is it at 8:00 that the office closes?
එයා බොන්නේ වතුර ද?	Is it water that he is drinking?

2.24 Negatives with the present tense.
2.241 The negative of නවා .

Affirmative	මම බොනවා.	I drink.
Negative	මම බොන්නේ නෑ.	I don't drink.
Affirmative	මහත්තයා යනවා.	The gentleman goes.
Negative	මහත්තයා යන්නේ නෑ.	The gentleman doesn't go.
Affirmative	මම බිත්තර කනවා.	I eat eggs.
Negative	මම බිත්තර කන්නේ නෑ.	I don't eat eggs.
Affirmative	මම වැඩ කරනවා.	I work.
Negative	මම වැඩ කරන්නේ නෑ.	I don't work.

The formula for negating the නවා form is න්නේ form + නෑ . Two exceptions are the verbs තියෙනවා 'be' (inanimate) and ඉන්නවා 'be' (animate). Their negative forms are simply නෑ.

2.242 Negating emphatic sentences with නෙමෙයි 'is not'.

Affirmative	මම යන්නේ කඩේට.	It is to the store that I am going.
Negative	මම යන්නේ කඩේට නෙමෙයි.	It is not to the store that I am going.
Affirmative	මම ඉන්නේ අමෙරිකාවේ.	I live in America.
Negative	මම ඉන්නේ අමෙරිකාවේ නෙමෙයි.	It is not in America that I live.
Affirmative	මම බොන්නේ වතුර.	It is water that I drink.
Negative	මම බොන්නේ වතුර නෙමෙයි.	It is not water that I drink.
Affirmative	මම කන්නේ බිත්තර.	It is eggs that I eat.
Negative	මම කන්නේ බිත්තර නෙමෙයි.	It is not eggs that I eat.

In emphatic sentences such as the ones above, the item singled out for emphasis follows the verb. This type of sentence is negated by adding නෙමෙයි,'is not/are not', after the emphasized item.

2.25 Negative/interrogative sentences.

Sentences with නෙමෙයි, 'is not/are not' may be made interrogative by adding the question marker ද in sentence final position. Sentences with නෑ such as those in 2.241 are also negated with the question marker ද . නෑ plus ද becomes නැද්ද . Examples:

මහත්තයා යන්නේ නෑ.	The gentleman doesn't go.
මහත්තයා යන්නේ නැද්ද?	Doesn't the gentleman go?
මම වැඩ කරන්නේ නෑ.	I don't work.
මම වැඩ කරන්නේ නැද්ද?	Don't I work?

2.26 Present forms with question words.

Question words such as මොකක්, 'what',මොනවා, 'what', කොහේ , where', and others occur in sentences with the න්නේ form of the verb. With the exception of ඇයි , 'why', which stands alone, these words are immediately followed by the question marker ද . Examples:

මහත්තයා යන්නේ කොහොම ද?	How are you going, sir?
නේන්නා මහත්තයා කරන්නේ මොනවා ද?	What are you doing, madam?
ඒකට කියන්නේ මොකද්ද (=මොකක් ද)?	What do you call that?
මහත්තයා සිංදු කියන්නේ මොකද?	Why do you sing, sir?
ඇයි යන්නේ, මහත්තයා?	Why are you going, sir?
නේන්නා මහත්තයා කොහේ ද ඉන්නේ?	Where are you living, madam?

When present verbs in the negative occur in construction with question words they take the shape -න්නේ form plus නැත්තේ. Examples:

ඇයි යන්නේ නැත්තේ?/යන්නේ නැත්තේ මොකද?	Why don't you go?
මොනවා ද කරන්නේ නැත්තේ?	What aren't you doing?

2.27 The emphatic negative form

The න්නේ form plus නැත්තේ which has appeared above with question words is an emphatic negative form of the verb. Compare:

මම යන්නේ කඩේට.	It is to the store that I am going.
මම යන්නේ නැත්තේ කඩේට	It is not to the store that I am going.
කන්තෝරුව අරින්නේ අටට.	It is at 8:00 that the office opens.
කන්තෝරුව අරින්නේ නැත්තේ අටට.	It is not at 8:00 that the office opens.

See section 2.242 for sentences which although different in structure from those above are roughly similar in meaning.

2.28 Rapid speech forms

Before a following නැ and some other negative forms based on it such as නැත්තේ , the න්නේ form of the verb becomes න් in rapid speech. Examples:

Optimal signal	එයා වැඩ කරන්නේ නෑ.	He doesn't work.
Rapid speech form	එයා වැඩ කරන් නෑ.	He doesn't work.
Optimal signal	එයා යන්නේ නැත්තේ මොකද?	Why doesn't he go?
Rapid speech form	එයා යන් නැත්තේ මොකද?	Why doesn't he go?

2.29 This thing is mine./ That is a loaf of bread. Equational sentences.

Sentences of the form x is y lack verbs in Sinhala. Examples.

මේක මගේ.	This thing is mine.
අර පාන් ගෙඩියක්.	That is a loaf of bread.
කාර් එක අලුත්.	The car is new.
කමිසය හොඳ එකක් ද?	Is the shirt a good one?

2.291 Negation

When the word in the "y" slot is an adjective, it is negated with නෑ . Examples:

කාර් එක අලුත් නෑ.	The car is not new.
වැඩ ලේසි නෑ.	The work is not easy.

When the word in the "y" slot is a noun or pronoun, it is negated with නෙමෙයි . Examples.

අර පාන් ගෙඩියක් නෙමෙයි.	That is not a loaf of bread.
කමිසය හොඳ එකක් නෙමෙයි.	The shirt is not a good one.
මේක මගේ නෙමෙයි.	This thing is not mine.

2.3 The present verbal adjective or න form

2.31 Use of the න form

The න form precedes the noun it modifies. Examples:

යන මිනිස්සු	Going men (or men who are going)
ගොයම් කපන කාලේ	Paddy cutting time.
සිංහල ඉගෙනගන්න ළමයි.	Sinhala learning children (or children who are learning Sinhala)
මම කියවන පොත	The book I am reading.

ආණ්ඩුව කරන වැඩ.	The work which the government is doing.

Note that constructions with the present verbal adjective often equate with English relative clauses.

2.32 Formation of the න form

The න form is made up of the verb stem + න . Examples:

simple present form		verb stem	න form
යනවා	go	ය -	යන
බොනවා	drink	බෙ -	බොන
කපනවා	cut	කප -	කපන
බදිනවා	fry	බදි -	බදින

2.33 Forms based on the present verbal adjective

2.331 The කොට , 'when', form.

2.3311 Use.

The කොට form is used to convey the meaning 'When (I) am doing something.' The action in the කොට clause is simultaneous with the action in the main clause. Examples:

මම උදේ කෑම කනකොට, පත්තර කියවනවා.	I read the papers when I am eating breakfast.
මම නානකොට, සිංදු කියනවා.	When I bathe, I sing.

2.3312 Formation of the කොට form.

The කොට form is made up of the present verbal adjective plus කොට.

present verbal adjective		කොට් form
යන	go	යනකොට්
බොන	drink	බොනකොට්
කපන	cut	කපනකොට්
බදින	fry	බදිනකොට්

2.332 The කන් 'till' form.

2.3321 Use

The කන් form is used to convey the meaning 'until such an action happens.' Examples.

අට වෙනකන්, මම වැඩ කරන්නම්.	I'll work until (it becomes) 8:00, if you like.
මහත්තයා එනකන්, ඉන්න.	Stay till the gentleman comes.
මම වැඩ ඉවර කරනකන්, එයා එන්නේ නෑ.	He isn't coming till I finish the work.

2.3322 Formation of the කන් form.

The කන් form is made up of the present verbal adjective plus කන් Examples:

present verbal adjective		කන් form
වෙන	become	වෙනකන්
යන	go	යනකන්
එන	come	එනකන්
කරන	do	කරනකන්

2.3333 Stylistic variation

There is a තල් form which is a variant of the කන් form. Example:

එයා එනතල්, ඉන්න.	Wait till he comes.

2.333 The present verbal adjective with නිසා , 'because'.

2.3331 Use

The present verbal adjective occurs in construction with නිසා, 'because', and has the meaning 'because (subject) does such and such.' Examples:

එයා වැඩ කරන නිසා.	Because he is working.
මහත්තයා යන නිසා.	Because the gentleman is going.
මම උදේ කෑම කන නිසා.	Because I am eating breakfast.
මම හාල් මනින නිසා, දැන් යන්න බෑ.	I can't go now because I am measuring the rice.
මම සිංහල ඉගෙනගන්න නිසා, දැන් එන්න බෑ.	I can't come now because I am studying Sinhala.

2.3332 Related negative forms

The negative adjectival form is නැති . Negative present verbs which appear before නිසා take the form න්නේ form plus නැති . Examples:

මම යන නිසා.	Because I am going.
මම යන්නේ නැති නිසා.	Because I am not going.
මම හාල් මනින නිසා.	Because I am measuring the rice.
මම හාල් මනින්නේ නැති නිසා.	Because I am not measuring the rice.

2.3333 Dialect and stylistic variation

Another word meaning 'because' is හින්දා. It occurs in the same types of constructions as නිසා .

2.4 Past tense forms

2.41 The simple past tense form

Present	මම වැඩ කරනවා.	I work
Past	මම වැඩ කෙරුවා.	I worked

Present	මම සිංහල ඉගෙනගන්නවා.	I am learning Sinhala.
Past	මම සිංහල ඉගෙනගත්තා.	I learned Sinhala.

The simple past tense form of the verb expresses completed action. It fills slots which are similar to those filled by the simple present tense, or නවා form, i.e., it usually goes at the end of a sentence and it may be followed by the question marker ද .

2.42 The emphatic past tense form

Emphatic present	මම කන්නේ මස්.	It is meat that I am eating.
Emphatic past	මම කෑවේ මස්.	It was meat that I ate.
Emphatic present	යන්නේ කොහේ ද?	Where are you going?
Emphatic past	ගියේ කොහේ ද?	Where did you go?

The emphatic past tense form also expresses completed action. Like the emphatic present form, it is used when some item other than the verb in the sentence is singled out for emphasis. It is also used with question words. It is not followed directly by the question marker ද .

2.43 Predicting the simple past tense form from the නවා form.

Step 1: Remove the නවා suffix. This leaves the verb stem.

For example:

simple present tense form		verb stem
කපනවා	cut	කප-
කඩනවා	break	කඩ-
කොටනවා	pound	කොට-
කැපෙනවා	get cut	කැපෙ-
කැඩෙනවා	get broken	කැඩෙ-
වැටෙනවා	fall	වැටෙ-

simple present tense form		verb stem
බඳිනවා	bind	බඳි-
බදිනවා	fry	බදි-

Step 2: If the root vowel is ඇ change it to ඈ

If the root vowel is ආ change it to ඈ

If the root vowel is ඔ change it to ඕ

If the root vowel is ඕ change it to ඕ

If the root vowel is උ change it to ඌ

If the root vowel is ඌ change it to ඊ

If the root vowel is ඈ , ඈ , ඕ , ඕ , ඌ , or ඊ , do not change it. For example:

basic stem		altered stem
කප-	cut	කැප-
කඩ-	break	කැඩ-
කැප-	get cut	කැප-
කොට-	pound	කෙට-
ගෝද-	wash	ගෝද-
මුර-	bark	බිර-
කඟ-	scratch	කැඟ-

Step 3: Look at the stem vowel. If the stem vowel is ඇ , remove it and add උවා. Verbs with stem vowel ඇ are class 1 verbs. If the stem vowel is ඕ , remove it and add උනා. Verbs with stem vowel ඕ are class 2 verbs. If the stem vowel is ඌ , remove it, double the preceding consonant and add ආ. Verbs with stem vowel ඌ are class 3 verbs. Examples:

	simple present tense form		simple past tense form
1.	කපනවා	cut	කැපුවා
	කඩනවා	break	කැඩුවා
	කොටනවා	pound	කෙටුවා

	simple present tense form		simple past tense form
	බුරනවා	bark	බිරුවා
	සෝදනවා	wash	සෝදුවා
2.	කැපෙනවා	get cut	කැපුනා
	වැටෙනවා	fall	වැටුනා
3.	බදිනවා	fry	බැද්දා
	නගිනවා	climb	නැග්ගා
	නැඟිටිනවා	get up	නැඟිට්ටා
	මනිනවා	measure	මැන්නා

2.44 Irregular past tense verb forms

There is a small list of verbs for which some forms are irregular. Below is a list of high frequency verbs with irregular past tense forms.

simple present tense form		simple past tense form
ඉන්නවා	be (animate)	හිටියා
තියෙනවා	be (inanimate)	තිබුනා
වෙනවා	become	උනා
කරනවා	do	කෙරුවා
දෙනවා	give	දුන්නා
ගන්නවා	get	ගත්තා
යනවා	go	ගියා
එනවා	come	ආවා
ගේනවා	bring	ගෙනාවා
කනවා	eat	කෑවා
බොනවා	drink	බිව්වා
දානවා	put, place	දැම්මා

simple present tense form		simple past tense form
නානවා	bathe	නෑවා
ගානවා	smear	ගෑවා
හානවා	plow	හෑවා

2.45 Predicting the emphatic past tense form from the simple past tense form

The formula for deriving the emphatic past tense form from the simple past form is: replace final ආ with ඒ. Examples:

simple past form		emphatic past form
කෙරුවා	do	කෙරුවේ
හිමුනා	be	හිමුනේ
කැපුවා	cut	කැපුවේ
කැඩුවා	break	කැඩුවේ

2.46 Negative and interrogative past tense forms

The negative and interrogative forms of the simple and emphatic past parallel those of the present. These forms are illustrated below.

simple	මහත්තයා අටට ආවා.	The gentleman came at 8:00.
emphatic	මහත්තයා ආවේ අටට.	It was at 8:00 that the gentleman came.
simple/ neg.	මහත්තයා අටට ආවේ නෑ.	The gentleman didn't come at 8:00.
emphatic/ neg.	මහත්තයා ආවේ නැත්තේ අටට.	It wasn't at 8:00 that the gentleman came.
simple/?	මහත්තයා අටට ආවා ද?	Did the gentleman come at 8:00?
emphatic/?	මහත්තයා ආවේ අටට ද?	Was it at 8:00 that the gentleman came?

simple/ neg./?	මහත්තයා අටට ආවේ නැද්ද?	Didn't the gentleman come at 8:00?
emphatic/ neg./?	මහත්තයා ආවේ නැත්තේ අටට ද?	Wasn't it at 8:00 that the gentleman came?

2.47 Dialect variation

Alternant past tense forms of three common verbs appear below.

simple present		A simple past	B simple past
අහනවා	ask	ඇහුවා	ඇහැව්වා
ගහනවා	hit	ගැහුවා	ගැහැව්වා
වහනවා	close	වැහුවා	වැහැව්වා

Both variants may be heard in the speech of educated speakers, although variant A is preferable.

Most other variants of past tense forms are non-standard. They include බුන්නා for බීව්වා , 'drank', තිබ්බා ,for තිබුණා , 'was', and others. In some areas of the Kandyan highlands the past tenses of all Class 1 verbs conform to a pattern other than the one which has been set out above and show no vowel change from present to past. Since these forms are low prestige forms, however, they occur infrequently in conversations with non-native speakers.

2.48 Forms based on the past tense: the past verbal adjective.

2.481 Use

The past verbal adjective occurs in constructions which are similar to those in which the present verbal adjective occurs. It precedes the noun it modifies. Examples:

මට ලැබුන වීසා එක .	The visa I obtained.
මම ඉපදුන ගම.	The village where I was born.
කැඩුන මුට්ටි.	Broken pots.

2.482 Formation of the past verbal adjective form.

The past verbal adjective is formed by replacing final ආ of the simple past tense form with අ . Examples:

simple past form		past verbal adjective
ගියා	go	ගිය
ආවා	come	ආව
බැලුවා	see	බැලුව
කැඩුනා	get broken	කැඩුන
බැද්දා	fry	බැද්ද

2.483 The past verbal adjective with නිසා , 'because'.

Like the present verbal adjective the past verbal adjective occurs in constructions with නිසා , 'because'. Examples:

මහත්තයා ගිය නිසා.	Because the gentleman went.
මම මුට්ටි කැඩුව නිසා.	Because I broke the pots.
මම අමෙරිකාවේ ඉපදුන නිසා.	Because I was born in America.

Examples of past tense negative forms with නිසා are given below.

මහත්තයා ගියේ නැති නිසා.	Because the gentleman didn't go.
මම මුට්ටි කැඩුවේ නැති නිසා.	Because I didn't break the pots.
මම අමෙරිකාවේ ඉපදුනේ නැති නිසා.	Because I wasn't born in America.

Note: There are some other Sinhala verb forms which are derived from the past but which are not discussed in this section. They include the 'when' form and the 'even if' forms which are taken up in sections 2.8 and 2.9.

2.5 The Infinitive Form

2.51 Use

2.511 The infinitive form is used as the request form:

ඉඳගන්න.	Please sit down.
ගෙදර යන්න.	Please go home.
කෑම කන්න.	Please eat.

Request forms are negated by adding the word එපා .

කැගහන්න එපා.	You shouldn't shout.
ගෙදර යන්න එපා.	Please don't go home.
වතුර බොන්න එපා.	Don't drink the water.

2.512 Infinitives may be the objects of other verbs:

මම නාන්න යනවා.	I am going to bathe.
මම කෑම කන්න එනවා.	I am coming to eat.
මට කෑම කන්න ඕනෑ නෑ.	I don't want to eat.
වතුර බොන්න බෑ.	Can't drink water.

2.513 When the infinitive is followed by the question marker ද , it has the meaning "Should (I) do something?."

මම මෙහෙම ලියන්න ද?	Should I write like this?
හෙට යන්න ද?	Should I go tomorrow?

2.52 Formation of the Infinitive Form

The formula for the infinitive form is verb stem plus න්න . Some dialects have variants with න්ඩ and න්ට . Examples:

Verb stem		Infinitive
ය-	go	යන්න (යන්ඩ, යන්ට)
එ-	come	එන්න (එන්ඩ, එන්ට)
ක-	eat	කන්න (කන්ඩ, කන්ට)
ගේ-	bring	ගේන්න (ගේන්ඩ, ගේන්ට)
දෙ-	give	දෙන්න (දෙන්ඩ, දෙන්ට)
කප-	cut	කපන්න (කපන්ඩ, කපන්ට)
කර-	do	කරන්න (කරන්ඩ, කරන්ට)
කොට	pound	කොටන්න (කොටන්ඩ, කොටන්ට)

2.6 The participle

2.61 Use

මම කෑම කාලා ගෙදර ගියා.	Having eaten, I went home. (I ate and went home)
කුඹුර හාලා පෝර දාන්න.	Having plowed the field, put on fertilizer. (Plow the field and put on fertilizer)
මම ලියුමක් ලියලා තැපැල් කන්තෝරුවට ගියා.	Having written a letter, I went to the post office. (I wrote a letter and went to the post office)

THE RANKOT VIHARA, POLONNARUWA, 12th CENTURY

මම සල්ලි දීලා බඩු ගත්තා.	Having given the money, I got the goods. (I gave the money and got the goods)
කඩේ වහලා මුදලාලි නුවර ගියා.	Having closed the shop, the shopkeeper went to Kandy. (The shopkeeper closed the shop and went to Kandy)

In English, events are often sequenced with and. For example:

I went and got it.

He took a bath and went to bed.

I am going to the store and buy some fruit.

Flour the fish and fry it.

It is also possible to say

Having gone, I got it.

Having taken a bath, I went to bed.

Having gone to the store, I'll buy some fruit.

Having floured the fish, fry it.

Although the second renditions are less frequent in American English and may seem somewhat awkward, they literally translate the forms which appear in Sinhala. In Sinhala sometimes several events are sequenced in this fashion. For example:

මම කෑලා, නාලා, ගෙදර ගිහිල්ලා, නිදාගත්ත ගියා.	Having eaten, having bathed, having gone home, I went to bed. (I ate, bathed, went home and went to bed)

This "having" form is called the participle. The participle may also be joined with forms of the verb තියෙනවා 'be', to form perfect tenses. For example:

මම ඒ චිත්‍රපටිය දැකලා තියෙනවා.	I have seen that movie.
එයා අමෙරිකාවට ගිහින් තියෙනවා.	He has gone to America.
මම ඒ චිත්‍රපටිය දැකලා තිබුනා.	I had seen that movie.
එයා අමෙරිකාවට ගිහින් තිබුනා.	He had gone to America.

2.611 Perfect forms

2.6111 Present perfect forms

The participle plus තියෙනවා , 'be', has the meaning 'have done something.' Examples:

මම අමෙරිකාවට ගිහිල්ලා තියෙනවා.	I have gone to America.
මම කිරි බත් කෑලා තියෙනවා.	I have eaten milk rice.
මම පොත් දෙකක් ලියලා තියෙනවා.	I have written two books.

These forms are present perfect forms.

2.6112 Past perfect forms

The participle plus තිබුනා , 'be(past)', has the meaning 'had done something.' Examples:

මම අමෙරිකාවට ගිහිල්ලා තිබුනා.	I had gone to America.
මම කිරි බත් කෑලා තිබුනා.	I had eaten milk rice.
මම පොත් දෙකක් ලියලා තිබුනා.	I had written two books.

These forms are past perfect forms.

2.612 The participle alone as a finite verb.

Sometimes the participle stands alone as the finite verb. It has a perfect sense and occurs primarily with third person subjects.

කන්තෝරුව දැන් ඇරලා.	The office has opened now.
තැපැල් කන්තෝරුව දැන් වහලා.	The post office has closed now.

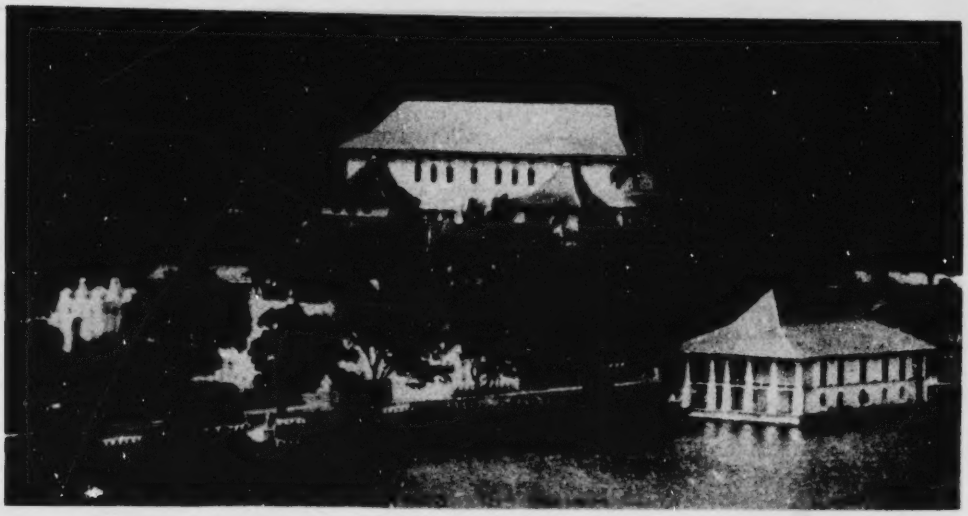
2.613 Negative, interrogative and emphatic forms with the perfect.

Perfect forms may be made negative, interrogative, negative/ interrogative and emphatic by applying the appropriate formulas (outlined in 2.1 and 2.3) to the auxiliary තියෙනවා , 'be'. No change is made in the participle.

2.614 Durative and continuous forms with the participle.

With animate subjects the participle combines with forms of the verb ඉන්නවා , 'be', to make forms which are durative (and sometimes continuous) in meaning. For example:

මම බැඳලා ඉන්නවා.	I'm married. (I'm married now and I continue to be.)
මම කොළඹ පදිංචි වෙලා හිටියා.	I was residing in Colombo. (I started living there and continued to do so for some time.)
මහත්තයා දිහා බලාගෙන ඉන්න.	Look at (in the direction of) the gentleman. (Start doing it and keep on doing it.)



KANDY LAKE WITH TEMPLE OF THE TOOTH IN DISTANCE

2.62 Formation of the participle.

2.621 Class 1 verbs

The formula for the participle for class 1 verbs is verb stem plus ලා . Examples.

simple present		verb stem	participle
කපනවා	cut	කප	කපලා
බලනවා	see	බල	බලලා

simple present		verb stem	participle
හදනවා	make	හද	හදලා
උයනවා	cook	උය	උයලා
දුවනවා	run	දුව	දුවලා

2.622 Class 2 verbs

The formula for the participle for class 2 verbs is verb stem minus ේ plus ිලා .

simple present		verb stem	participle
කැපෙනවා	get cut	කැපෙ	කැපිලා
කැඩෙනවා	get broken	කැඩෙ	කැඩිලා
තේරෙනවා	understand	තේරෙ	තේරිලා
වැටෙනවා	fall	වැටෙ	වැටිලා

2.623 Class 3 verbs

The formula for the participle for class 3 verbs is altered verb stem minus ි plus ලා .

simple present		verb stem	participle
මනිනවා	measure	මැනී	මැනලා
බදිනවා	fry	බැදී	බැදලා
මදිනවා	brush	මැදී	මැදලා

2.624 Participle forms of irregular verbs

The participle forms of the high frequency irregular verbs which appeared in 2.44 are given below. Note that not all the forms below are irregular.

simple present		participle
ඉන්නවා	be (animate)	ඉඳලා
තියෙනවා	be (inanimate)	තිබිලා

simple present		participle
වෙනවා	become	වෙලා
කරනවා	do	කරලා
දෙනවා	give	දීලා
ගන්නවා	get	අරන්
යනවා	go	ගිහිල්ලා (ගිහින්)
එනවා	come	ඇවිල්ලා (ඇවිත්)
ගේනවා	bring	ගෙනැල්ලා (ගෙනත්)
කනවා	eat	කාලා
බොනවා	drink	බීලා
දානවා	put, place	දාලා
ගානවා	smear	ගාලා
හානවා	plow	හාලා
නානවා	bathe	නාලා

2.7 The ප form or participial adjective

2.71 Use

Like the other adjectival forms derived from verbs which have been discussed previously in Sinhala Structures, the ප form modifies a preceding noun. Examples:

ලීවලින් හදපු ගෙදර	The house (which has been) made with wood.
බැදපු මස්	Fried meat; meat which has been fried.
මම මැනපු හාල්.	The rice I have measured.
කැපිච්ච ගස්	The trees which have been cut.

Like the other adjectives, the ෆ form occurs in construction with නිසා , 'because'. Examples:

එයා ගෙදර හදපු නිසා.	Because he has built the house.
අම්මා හාල් මැනපු නිසා.	Because mother has measured the rice.

The formula for the negative of the above forms is participle plus නැති .

එයා ගෙදර හදලා නැති නිසා.	Because he hasn't built the house.
අම්මා හාල් මැනලා නැති නිසා.	Because mother hasn't measured the rice.

The participial adjective also figures in the formation of a 'when' form which is discussed below in 2.8

2.72 Formation

2.721 Class 1 verbs.

The formula for the ෆ form of Class 1 verbs is: participle form minus ලා plus ෆ . Examples:

participle		ෆ form
කපලා	cut	කපෆ
කඩලා	break	කඩෆ
හදලා	make, build	හදෆ
බලලා	see	බලෆ

2.722 Class 2 verbs.

The formula for the ෆ form of Class 2 verbs is: participle form minus ලා plus විව . Examples:

participle		ෆ form
වැටිලා	fall	වැටිවිව
කැපිලා	get cut	කැපිවිව
කැඩිලා	get broken	කැඩිවිව

2.723 Class 3 verbs.

The formula for the පු form of Class 3 verbs is: participle form minus ලා plus පු . Examples:

participle		පු form
නැගලා	climb	නැගපු
බැදලා	fry	බැදපු
මැනලා	measure	මැනපු
මැදලා	brush	මැදපු

2.724 Irregular verbs

පු forms for the high frequency verbs which show irregularities in numerous forms are given below.

simple present form		පු form
ඉන්නවා	be (animate)	හිටපු
තියෙනවා	be (inanimate)	තිබිච්ච
වෙනවා	become	වෙච්ච
කරනවා	do	කරපු
දෙනවා	give	දීපු
ගන්නවා	get	අරගත්ත
යනවා	go	ගිය
එනවා	come	ආපු
ගේනවා	bring	ගෙනෑපු
කනවා	eat	කෑපු
බොනවා	drink	බීපු
දානවා	put, place	දාපු
ගානවා	smear	ගෑපු
හානවා	plow	හෑපු
නානවා	bathe	නෑපු

2.8 The 'when' forms

2.81 Use

One 'when' form, the කොට form has been discussed above in 2.331. It contrasts in meaning with another 'when' form, the ම form. Examples:

a	මම රෙදි සෝදනකොට, සබන් පාවිච්චි කරනවා.	When I wash clothes, I use soap.
b	මම රෙදි සෝදුවාම, අත් රතු වෙනවා.	When I wash clothes (that is, after I have done so), my hands get red.
c	මම ලංකාවට යනකොට, අහස්යාත්‍රාවෙන් යනවා.	When I go to Sri Lanka, I'll go by airplane.
d	මම ලංකාවට ගියාම, කෘෂිකර්ම දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ වැඩ කරනවා.	When I go to Sri Lanka, I'll work for the Department of Agriculture.

With ම forms of the verb, the action in the 'when' clause precedes the action in the second clause. For example, in sentence a above, 'When I wash clothes, my hands get red', the meaning is that the hands do not get red until after the clothes are washed. By contrast in sentence b, 'When I wash clothes, I use soap', the actions are simultaneous, that is, soap is being used in the process of washing the clothes. Hence the කොට form is appropriate in the 'when' clause (see section 2.331 for a detailed discussion).

2.82 Formation of the ම form.

The formula for the ම form is simple past tense form plus ම .

simple past		ම form
ගියා	go	ගියාම
ආවා	come	ආවාම
බැද්දා	fry	බැද්දාම
කැපුවා	cut	කැපුවාම
කෙරුවා	do	කෙරුවාම

2.83 Dialect variation

In the speech of some speakers the formula for the මි form is as follows: past verbal adjective plus හම් . Examples:

past verbal adjective		මි form
ගිය	go	ගියහම්
ආව	come	ආවහම්
කැඩුව	break	කැඩුවහම්
කැපුව	cut	කැපුවහම්
කෙරුව	do	කෙරුවහම්

2.84 An additional 'when' form.

An additional 'when' form is built on the participial adjective and it differs little in meaning from the මි forms described above. The formula for this form is: participial adjective (ු form) plus හම්.

participial adjective (ු) form.		derived මි form.
ආපු	come	ආපුහම්
කරපු	do	කරපුහම්
වැටිච්ච	fall	වැටිච්චහම්
බැදපු	fry	බැදපුහම්

2.9 The 'if' forms

There are a number of forms and constructions in Sinhala which equate with the English 'if (I) do something.' Two types of equivalents are discussed below.

2.91 A conditional form of the verb.

හෙට වැස්සොත්, අපට පොලොන්නරුවට යන්න බෑ.	If it rains tomorrow, we can't go to Polonnaruwa.

ඔයා මේ කෑම කෑවොත්, අසනීප වෙනවා. If you were to eat this food, you would become sick.

The 'if' forms in the sentences above are conditional forms of the verb.

The formula for the conditional form of the verb is: simple past form minus ා plus ොත් . Examples:

simple past		conditional
ගියා	go	ගියොත්
ආවා	come	ආවොත්
කෙරුවා	do	කෙරුවොත්
ගත්තා	take	ගත්තොත්

Another conditional form based on the present stem occurs in Sinhala, but it is not illustrated in General Conversation because it seems to be of low frequency in speech and therefore of minor importance. The formula for this form is present stem plus ෙත් , For example, මම යනෙත් , 'if I go.'

2.92 Basic forms of the verb plus නම් , 'if'.

The English 'If (I) (am) doing something', may be expressed by a present form plus නම් , 'if'. Examples:

පොල් ගෙඩි කඩේ තියෙනවා නම්, මට කියන්න.	If there are coconuts in the shop, tell me.
අපි කොළඹ යනවා නම්, මම කාර් එක එලවන්නම්.	If we go to Colombo, I'll drive the car, if you like.

Past forms with නම් are not semantically parallel to those of the present. They usually have the meaning 'If (I) had done something'. Examples:

පොල් ගෙඩි කඩේ තිබුනා නම්, මම නුවර යන්නේ නෑ.	If there had been coconuts in the shop, I wouldn't be going to Kandy.
අපි කොළඹ ගියා නම්, මම කාර් එක එලෙව්වා.	If we had gone to Colombo, I would have driven the car.

2.10 The 'even if' form

කහට තේ එකක් හදලා දුන්නත්, එයා බොන්නේ නෑ.	Even if you prepare a plain tea (for him), he will not drink it.
මම එයාට ලියුම් එව්වත්, එයා මට සල්ලි දෙන්නේ නෑ.	Even if I send him letters, he will not give me the money.
මම කහට තේ එකක් හදලා දුන්නත්, එයා බීව්වේ නෑ.	Even though I prepared a plain tea (for him), he would not drink it.
මම එයාට ලියුම් එව්වත්, එයා මට සල්ලි දුන්නේ නෑ.	Even though I sent him letters, he would not give me the money.

Examples of the 'even if' form of the verb appear above. The formula for the 'even if' form is simple past tense form minus ා plus අත් .

2.11 The 'although' construction.

Examples of the 'although' construction which is very common in most normal communication appear below. The formula for the although construction is: simple past tense form of the verb plus ට plus මොක ද . මොක ද , however, may be omitted.

එයා ඉස්කෝලේ ගියාට මොක ද, එයා ඉංග්‍රීසි ඉගෙනගන්නේ නෑ.	Although he goes to school, he doesn't learn English.
හය දෙනාට ලෙඩ හැදුනාට මොක ද, කවුරුවත් මැරුනේ නෑ.	Although six people became ill, no one died.

Note that the tense of the entire sentence is determined by that of the main clause.

2.12 First person verb forms

2.12.1 The න්නම් form.

The න්නම් form occurs only with first person subjects. It has a consultative meaning in that it announces an intention of performing an activity and at the same time requests leave to do so. For example:

මම මහත්තයාට කියන්නම්.	I'll tell the gentleman, if you like.

The addressee generally responds as follows:

John මම මහත්තයාට කියන්නම්.	I'll tell the gentleman, if you like.
Mary. හොඳයි. එයාට කියන්න.	Good. Tell him.

The formula for the formation of the න්නම් form is verb stem plus න්නම් . Examples:

simple present		verb stem	form
යනවා	go	ය	යන්නම්
එනවා	come	එ	එන්නම්
කියනවා	tell	කිය	කියන්නම්
කරනවා	do	කර	කරන්නම්

2.12.2 The මු form

Whereas the න්නම් form may occur with first person singular or first person plural subjects, the මු form occurs only with the first person plural. It has the meaning 'lets do something.' The subject (අපි , 'we') may be stated or understood. Examples:

චිත්‍රපටියක් බලන්න යමු.	Let's go see a movie.
උදේ කෑම කමු.	Let's eat breakfast.

It may precede the question marker ද .

යමු ද?	Should we go?
කමු ද?	Should we eat?

The formula for the negative is නෑ plus a stem form of the participle plus ඉඳිමු , 'let's stay/be.' The literal translation is 'not having done something, let's (just) be.' ඉඳිමු is the මු form of ඉන්නවා, 'be.' It is irregular. Examples:

අපි නොබලා ඉඳිමු.	Let's not see .
අපි නොකා ඉඳිමු.	Let's not eat .

The formula for the මු form is: verb stem plus මු . Examples:

simple present		verb stem	මු form
යනවා	go	ය	යමු
බලනවා	see	බල	බලමු
කනවා	eat	ක	කමු

Two irregular forms appear below.

simple present		මු form
ගන්නවා	take, get	ගමු
ඉන්නවා	be	ඉඳිමු

2.13 The යි form

The යි form appears with second and third person subjects, usually with the latter, and has the meaning '(he) is likely to do something.' Examples:

මහත්තයා හවස එයි.	The gentleman is likely to come in the evening.
එයා ෂෝ එකට යයි.	He is likely to go to the show.

The negative of the යි form is similar to the negative මු form. The formula is නෑ plus a stem form of the participle plus 'ඉඳියි , 'likely to stay, be.' ඉඳියි is the යි form of ඉන්නවා 'be'. Its form is irregular. Examples:

එයා ඒක නොබලා ඉඳියි.	He is not likely to see it.
එයා නොගිහින් ඉඳියි.	He is not likely to go.

The යි form may precede the question marker ද .

The formula for the යි form is: verb stem plus යි . Examples:

simple present		verb stem	යි form
යනවා	go	ය	යයි
එනවා	some	එ	එයි
කරනවා	do	කර	කරයි
කියනවා	say	කිය	කියයි
ඉන්නවා	be	[irregular form]	ඉඳියි

The යි form has a dialect variant with වි . The rules for forming it are different, and it does not appear to be very common. Hence it is not taken up here.

2.14 Special verbs

2.14.1 කැමතියි , 'like'.

මම මේ රටට කැමතියි.	I like this country.
මම මේ එලවලුවලට කැමති නෑ.	I don't like these vegetables.
තේ බොන්න කැමති ද?	Do (you) like to drink tea?
සිංහල ඉගෙනගන්න කැමති ද?	Do (you) like to study Sinhala?

The word කැමතියි means 'like or like to'. The actor is in the direct case. If there is an object, it is in the dative case, i.e.,

මම එලවලුවලට කැමතියි.	I like vegetables.

An infinitive may also be the object of කැමතියි , i.e.,

සිනි නැතුව එයා තේ බොන්න කැමති නෑ.	He doesn't like to drink tea without sugar.

Sentences with කැමතියි may be made interrogative by adding ද.

They may be made negative by adding නෑ .

කැමතියි may be made past by adding උනා .

2.14.2 පුලුවන් , 'can', and බෑ, 'cannot'.

පුලුවන් , 'can' and බෑ , 'can't', take actors in the dative case. Examples:

මට කොළඹ යන්න පුලුවන්.	I can go to Colombo.
මට වැඩකරන්න පුලුවන්.	I can work.
මට සිංහල කතාකරන්න පුලුවන්.	I can speak Sinhala.
මට ගෙදර යන්න බෑ.	I can't go home.
මහත්තයාට සිංහල කතාකරන්න බෑ.	The gentleman can't speak Sinhala.

පුලුවන් normally occurs in sentence final position, as above, but පුලුවන් may also occur there with no change in meaning.

පුලුවන් and බෑ usually occur with a dependent infinitive. Examples:

එයාට හාන්න පුලුවන්.	He can plow.
මහත්තයාට පත්තර කියවන්න පුලුවන්.	The gentleman can read the papers.
නෝනා මහත්තයාට මෙහාට එන්න බෑ.	The lady can't come here.

Sentences with පුලුවන් and බෑ may be made interrogative by adding. ද . Before ද , පුලුවන් changes to පුලුවන් and බෑ to බැරි . Examples:

මහත්තයාට පත්තර කියවන්න පුලුවන් ද?	Can you read the papers, sir?
තාත්තාට දොලහට ඉස්සර එන්න බැරි ද?	Can't you come before 12:00, father?

Sentences with පුලුවන් and බෑ may be made past by adding උනා , the past form of වෙනවා , 'become.' Examples:

ගිය ඉරිදා මට එන්න පුලුවන් උනා.	I was able to come last Sunday.
මට මස් හොඳට උයන්න බැරි උනා.	I was not able to cook the meat well.

2.14.3 ඕනෑ , 'want'.

ඕනෑ , 'want', takes an actor in the dative case. Examples:

මට කොල්ලුපිටිය හන්දියට යන්න ඕනෑ.	I want to go to Colpetty junction.
මට ගැහැණු ළමයි කියලා චිත්‍රපටිය බලන්න ඕනෑ.	I want to see the movie called Gehenu Lamay.
මට කිරි බත් කන්න ඕනෑ.	I want to eat milk rice.

Sentences with ඕනෑ may be made interrogative by adding ද . Examples:

මහත්තයාට විසා එකක් ඕනෑ ද?	Does the gentleman want a visa?
එයාට දැන් මට ලියකියවිලි දෙන්න ඕනෑ ද?	Does he want to give me the documents now?

They may be made negative by adding නෑ . Examples:

මහත්තයාට කිරි තේ එකක් ඕනෑ නෑ.	The gentleman doesn't want a milk tea.
එයාට ලියකියවිලි ගන්න ඕනෑ නෑ.	He doesn't want to take the documents.

They may be made past by adding උනා . Examples:

මට කෝච්චියෙන් එන්න ඕනෑ උනා.	I wanted to come by train.
මහත්තයාට ගෙදරක් හදාගන්න ඕනෑ උනා.	The gentleman wanted to build a house.

ඕනෑ may be preceded either by a dependent infinitive or by a noun in the direct case. In sentences with dependent nouns only there is an alternate negative form with එපා . එපා is equivalent to ඕනෑ නෑ , 'don't want' and replaces the entire phrase. Examples:

මට කිරි එපා.	I don't want any milk, i.e., no milk for me.
මට දොඩම් ඉස්ම එපා.	I don't want any orange juice.

2.15 Negatives in Sinhala: some summary remarks and some additions.

At this point most of the negative processes and words which occur in Sinhala have been discussed in connection with the verb forms to which they apply. They include නෑ and its various forms, බෑ and its forms, එපා and නෙමෙයි. The negative නො has been mentioned only briefly in connection with certain specific forms. A more detailed and general treatment appears below.

The negative නො .

නො negates forms in dependent clauses such as the conditional form of the verb:

හෙට නොවැස්සොත්, මම පිට-කොටුවට යනවා.	If it doesn't rain tomorrow, I'm going to the Pettah.

the 'even if' form:

මම එයාට නොකිව්වත්, එයා එනවා.	Even if I don't tell him, he'll come.

the ම form:

එයා වැඩට නොගියාම, මම තරහ වෙනවා.	When he doesn't go to work, I get mad.

the කොට form:

එයා වැඩ නොකරනකොට, සෙල්ලම් කරනවා.	When he's not working, he is playing.

and others.

It may also negate verbal adjective forms:

මස් නොකන මිනිස්සු බිත්තර කනවා.	The people who don't eat meat eat eggs.
කොළඹ නොගිය ගැනු අපේ කන්තෝරුවේ ඉන්නවා.	The women who didn't go to Colombo are in our office.
මම නොහදපු ගෙදර	The house I haven't built.

even if they occur in other types of constructions:

මම ගෙදර නොහදපු නිසා.	Because I haven't built the house.

These are the important principal uses of නො .

2.16 'It seems'

The particle ලු means 'it seems', and it is added to basic forms of the verb. Examples:

ලිඩෝ එකේ හොඳ චිත්‍රපටියක් පෙන්නනවා ලු.	It seems there is a good movie showing at the Lido.
එයා ළඟ සල්ලි තියෙනවා ලු.	He evidently has money on him.

When නෑ precedes ලු it becomes නැති . Examples:

එයා ළඟ සල්ලි නැති ලු.	He evidently has no money on him.
එයා තැපැල් කන්තෝරුවේ වැඩ කරන්නේ නැති ලු.	It seems that he doesn't work in the post office.

ලු may follow parts of speech other than verbs. For example:

එයා තැපැල් මහත්තයා ලු.	They say he's the postmaster.
මහත්තයා පොහොසත් ලු.	It seems that the gentleman is rich.

2.17 Relationships among verbs

2.17.1 Verbs with කරනවා , 'do', and වෙනවා , 'become'.

There are a large number of verbs with කරනවා which are related in meaning to a similar set with වෙනවා . They include:

බය කරනවා	scare	බය වෙනවා	fear
අඩු කරනවා	subtract	අඩු වෙනවා	be reduced
මතක් කරනවා	remind	මතක් වෙනවා	remember
කරදර කරනවා	bother	කරදර වෙනවා	worry
ඉවර කරනවා	finish	ඉවර වෙනවා	be finished

2.17.2 Causative/non-causative sets

Causative verbs are derived from basic verbs by adding ව to the stem. Examples:

basic verb		causative verb	
යනවා	go	යවනවා	make go, export
කරනවා	do	කරවනවා	cause to do
කඩනවා	break	කඩවනවා	cause to break
කනවා	eat	කවනවා	cause to eat, feed

The following verbs also stand in a causative/non causative relationship, even though the initial consonants differ:

බොනවා	drink	පොවනවා	cause to drink, feed

Other types of causatives involve other changes from the basic form:

බහිනවා	descend	බස්සනවා	let (someone) down, drop off.
ගේනවා	bring	ගෙන්වනවා	import
දන්නවා	know	දන්වනවා	make known

2.173 Active and passive

Some sets of verbs are active/passive. Generally, the active verb belongs to class 1 and the passive verb to class 2. Examples:

active		passive	
කපනවා	cut	කැපෙනවා	be cut
කරනවා	do	කෙරෙනවා	be done
මරනවා	kill	මැරෙනවා	be killed, die
හදනවා	make	හැදෙනවා	be made

2.17.4 Complex verbs with ගන්නවා and දෙනවා .

Complex verbs are formed with ගන්නවා and දෙනවා . Examples appear below.

basic verb		form with ගන්නවා	form with දෙනවා
හදනවා	make	හදාගන්නවා	හදාදෙනවා
හොයනවා	search	හොයාගන්නවා	හොයාදෙනවා
කපනවා	cut	කපාගන්නවා	කපාදෙනවා

There are a limited number of high frequency verbs which show these patterns. Generally the verb with ගන්නවා means 'do something for oneself' and the one with දෙනවා 'do something for others.' Examples:

මම ගෙයක් හදාගත්තා.	I built the house (room) for myself.
වඩුවා ගෙයක් හදාදුන්නා.	The carpenter built (us) a house.

The දෙනවා form may also occur with a preceding participle with no change in meaning. For example:

වඩුවා ගෙයක් හදලා දුන්නා.	The carpenter built us a house.

Sometimes verbs which are formed in this way have semantically specialized meanings. For example:

basic verb		derived verb	
කියනවා	say	කියාදෙනවා	explain
බලනවා	see	බලාගන්නවා	look after, care for.

2.17.5 Summary note to the student

The rules for deriving certain types of verbs (causative, passive, complex) have scarcely been fully explained above. Furthermore, since many verbs do not show the complete array of forms which have been discussed, it may not be useful for students to attempt to generalize the sketchy rules which have been presented. However the information here should demonstrate that there are clusters of verbs which are similar in form and in meaning which can be remembered as sets.

2.18 The clause subordinator කියලා

කියලා is a particle which follows certain types of subordinate clauses, usually those involving reported speech, ideas or names. Compare the following:

මම එයාට කිව්වා, 'දොර අරින්න.'	I told him, "open the door."
මම එයාට කිව්වා දොර අරින්න කියලා.	I told him to open the door.
	similarly
එයාගෙන් අහන්න, 'නම මොකද්ද?'	Ask him, "what is your name?"
එයාගෙන් අහන්න නම මොකද්ද කියලා.	Ask him what his name is.

This particle also marks the quotation of a name or word. For example:

තාත්තාගේ තාත්තාට අපි කියන්නේ සියා කියලා.	We call father's father siiya.
අපි ඒවාට කියන්නේ පොල් අතු කියලා.	We call those things coconut branches

2.19 Nouns derived from verb forms.

One type of verbal noun is formed with the present verbal adjective plus එක . Hence, කරන එක , 'the doing.' These nouns are Class C nouns (see 1.23). Example:

එයා කරන එකට මොකද්ද කියන්නේ?	What do you say for what he is doing?

Such nouns may be based on other adjectival forms of the verb as well. For example:

එයා දැන් කරපු එකට මොකද්ද කියන්නේ?	What do you say for what he has just done?
එයා කෙරුව එක ලේසි නෑ.	What he did was not easy.

3. Demonstratives and interrogatives

3.1 The adjectives

Demonstratives and interrogatives fall into sets. The adjective set appears below.

මේ	this, these
අර	that over there, those
ඔය	that near you, those
ඒ	that which we have previously referred to; those
කෙයි, මොන	which

These adjectives precede the nouns they modify. For example:

මේ කෙසෙල්ගෙඩි.	These bananas.
අර මහත්තයා.	That gentleman over there.
ඔය ලියකියවිලි.	Those documents near you, with you.
ඒ වැඩ.	That work (we were talking about)
කෙයි වැඩ. මොන ලියකියවිලි.	Which work; what documents.

They need not directly precede the noun they modify, however. Other adjectives may intervene. For example:

මේ ලාබ කෙසෙල්ගෙඩි.	These cheap bananas.
අර කෙට්ට මහත්තයා.	That short gentleman over there.
ඔය පරන ලියකියවිලි.	Those old documents.
ඒ අලුත් වැඩ.	That new work.
කෙයි අලුත් වැඩ. මොන පරන ලියකියවිලි.	What new work; what old documents.

3.2 Pronouns

3.21 The basic set

The demonstratives which appeared in 3.1 may also function as pronouns. For example:

මේ ගමක්	This is a village.
අර වැවක්	That (over there) is a tank.

3.22 The inanimate set

The following words are also pronouns and refer to inanimate nouns.

singular		plural	
මේක	this one	මේවා	these
අරක	that one	අරවා	those
ඕක	that one	ඕවා	those
ඒක	that one	ඒවා	those
මොනක්	what one	මොනවා	what ones
කෝක	which one		

The demonstratives take case endings as follows:

	singular	plural
direct	මේක	මේවා
dative	මේකට	මේවාට
genitive	මේකේ	මේවාගේ
instrumental	මේකෙන්	මේවායින්

Examples:

මේක පාවිච්චි කරන්නේ මොකට ද?	What do you use this thing for?
ඒක පාවිච්චි කරන්නේ මිරිස් අඹරන්න.	You use it to grind chillies.
අරවා පාවිච්චි කරන්නේ මොකට ද?	What do you use those things for?
ඒවා බෙහෙත් ජාතියක්.	They are a kind of medicine.
පත්තර තුනක් තියෙනවා. ඒවායේ ලංකාවේ හැම පලාතකම ආරංචි තියෙනවා.	There are three newspapers. In them there is news from every part of Sri Lanka.
ඔකට කියන්නේ මොකද්ද?	What do you call that thing near you?
මේකට කියන්නේ මිරිස් ගල කියලා.	For this you say miris gala.

3.33 The animate set

The animate pronominal set is given below.

singular		plural	
මෙයා	this person	මෙයාලා	these people
ඔයා	you	ඔයාලා	you (pl.)
අරයා	that person	අරයාලා	those people
එයා	that person	එයාලා	those people

These are the words which appear most commonly in Sinhala as the equivalents of the English 'he', 'she' and 'they'. As the translations above indicate, the words ඔයා and ඔයාලා serve as second person pronouns.

The demonstrative animate pronouns show the case endings outlined in section 1.2.

The Sinhala word for 'who, what person' is කවුරු . Before ද it is shortened as follows: කවුද . Its case forms are:

direct	කවු(රු)	who
dative	කාට	to whom
genitive	කාගේ	of whom, whose
instrumental	කාගෙන්	by whom

With the addition of ත to any of its case forms, කවුරු takes on the meaning 'everybody.' Examples:

direct	කවුරුත්	everybody
dative	කාටත්	to everybody
genitive	කාගෙත්	of everybody
instrumental	කාගෙනුත්	by, from everybody

3.24 Here and there

Sinhala has the following location sets.

මෙතන	this place, this spot
ඔතන	that place near you
අතන	that place over there
එතන	that place referred to earlier
කොතන	what place
මෙහේ	here
ඔහේ	over there near you
අරහේ	over there, yonder
එහේ	there
කොහේ	where
මෙහා	this direction
එහා	that direction

The words in these sets have case forms as follows:

direct	මෙතන	මෙහේ	මෙහා
dative	මෙතන්ට	මෙහේට	මෙහාට
genitive	මෙතන	මෙහේ	මෙහා
instrumental	මෙතනින්	මෙහෙන්	මෙහෙරෙන්

3.25 The quantity set

The quantity set is given below.

මෙච්චර	this much
ඔච්චර	that much
අච්චර	that much
එච්චර	that much
කොච්චර	how much

Examples:

කොච්චර කිරි බොනවා ද?	How much milk will you drink?
මට ඔච්චර එපා.	Not that much for me.
කළගෙඩියක් මෙච්චර ලොකුයි.	A water vessel is this big.
සෙම්බුවක් එච්චර ලොකු නෑ.	A sembuwa is not that big.

3.26 The 'like this ...like that' set

The following words pattern with the demonstratives and interrogatives discussed in the sections above.

මෙහෙම	like this
ඔහොම	like that
අරහෙම	like that
එහෙම	like that
කොහොම	how

Examples:

හිරමණයක් පාවිච්චි කරන්නේ කොහොම ද?	In what manner (how) do you use a coconut scraper?
මෝල්ගහෙන් මෙහෙම කොටනවා ද?	Is this how you pound with the pestle?
ඔව්. ඔහොම තමයි.	Yes. Just like that (just as you are doing.)
එහෙම ද?	Is that so? (following a statement of fact.)
එහෙම නෙමෙයි.	It is not like that. (following an inaccurate description of events or procedures.)

3.27 Pronouns: miscellaneous forms

Most of the Sinhala pronouns belong to the demonstrative/interrogative sets. The first person pronouns මම , 'I', and අපි , 'we', are exceptions. They show the following case forms:

direct	මම	I	අපි	we
dative	මට	to me	අපට	to us
genitive	මගේ	my	අපේ	ours
instrumental	මගෙන්	by me	අපෙන්	by us

The reflexive pronoun තමන් , 'his, her own, their own', is also an exception. Its case forms are:

direct	තමන්
dative	තමන්ට
genitive	තමන්ගේ
instrumental	තමන්ගෙන්

Examples:

එයාලා තමන්ගේ කෑම හදාගන්නවා.	They prepare their own food.
එයාලා තමතමන්ගේ කෑම හදාගන්නවා.	They each prepare their own food.

In the latter example තමතමන් , a reduplicated form of the reflexive pronoun appears. It has the meaning 'each his own, each their own.'

3.28 A note on terms of address and reference

The choice of a term of address is a matter which is discussed in General Conversation. The simple fact is that there is no neutral second person pronoun which is appropriate for all people at all times in all places. This helps to explain why the Sinhalese often avoid second person pronouns entirely and choose such terms as madam or sir or address people by name or occupational role instead.

Terms of reference present similar problems in many instances. In the case of women, for example, the term නෝනා මහත්තයා , 'madam', is only appropriate as a term of reference for those of an elevated social, educational or occupational station. Since the term for woman (ගෑණි) is in its singular form considered insulting, women are generally referred to as 'this person' or 'that person' (මෙයා and එයා among other terms) and not as 'this woman' or 'that woman.' The term ගෑණු , 'women', is not similarly stigmatized, although in the traditional sectors in the society the circumlocution බවලත් අය is commonly used. This term literally means 'those who have received rebirth.' Better educated women point out that this term is implicitly pejorative, since it reflects a belief linking demeritorious acts in previous births with being a woman.

By the same token the term මිනිහා, 'man', though not rude is not deferential either and is better rendered by English 'guy'. Its plural, මිනිස්සු , means 'people' not 'men' in the narrow sense. For the latter the Sinhala is පිරිමි අය , 'men, males, boys.'

In the traditional sectors of the society භාර්යාව and පුරුෂයා , elevated terms for 'wife' and 'husband' respectively are nearly universally avoided. Women refer to their husbands by circumlocution. Terms such as පුතාගේ තාත්තා , '(my) son's father', are commonly used. Educated people who know English profess to find these habits quaint but are no more comfortable with the elevated terms. They sometimes use the English terms instead. Traditional terms for 'wife' include බැඳලා ඉන්න එක්කෙනා, 'married one' and ගෙදර එක්කෙනා ,'the one in the house.'

4. Postpositions

Postpositions in Sinhala are functionally similar to English prepositions, except that whereas English prepositions occur before the word they govern, Sinhala postpositions occur following the word. Postpositions occur in construction with nouns, and some occur in construction with other parts of speech as well. When in construction with nouns, many of them govern specific cases, generally the direct case. Examples:

Sinhala	English	Usual case of noun
උඩ	on top of	direct
යට	under	direct
ඉහළ	above	dative/instrumental
පහළ	below	dative/instrumental
ළඟ, ගාව, කිට්ටුව	near	direct
ගැන	about	direct
වගේ	like	direct
විතරක්	only	direct
ඉඳලා	from	genitive
ඉස්සර, ඉස්සෙල්ලා	before	dative/instrumental
පස්සේ	after	dative/instrumental
වැඩියෙ	more than	dative

4.1 වැඩියෙ , 'more than'.

වැඩියෙ, 'more than', occurs with preceding nouns in the dative case to form the equivalent of the English comparative. Examples:

එලවලුවලට වැඩියෙ පලතුරු ගණන්. More than vegetables, fruit is expensive. (fruit is more expensive than vegetables.)

අර ගෙදරට වැඩියෙ මේ ගෙදර ලොකුයි. This house is bigger than that house.

5. Particles

5.1 - ත, 'also, too'

The particle -ත , meaning 'also', is added to words ending in a vowel. For words ending in a consonant, - ඌත් is added.

Examples:

අපි අම්මාගේ තාත්තාට කියන්නේ සියා කියලා.	We call mother's father siiya.
අපි තාත්තාගේ තාත්තාටත් කියන්නේ සියා කියලා.	We call father's father siiya too.
එයා කන්තෝරුවට ගියා.	He went to the office.
එයාත් කන්තෝරුවට ගියා.	He also went to the office.
බත් දෙන්න.	Give rice.
බතුත් දෙන්න.	Give rice too.
මට ලියුමක් ලැබුනා.	I got a letter.
මටත් ලියුමක් ලැබුනා.	I also got a letter.

5.2 ද..ද, 'or'.

In interrogative sentences ද..ද means 'or'.

Examples:

මේ පන්තියට උගන්නන්නේ නෝනා මහත්තයා ද මහත්තයා ද?	Is it the lady or the gentleman who teaches this class?
මගේ ද නේනා මහත්තයාගේ ද?	Mine or the lady's?
මේ කළගෙඩියක් ද මුට්ටියක් ද?	Is this a water vessel or a rice pot?
ඒක හරි ද වැරදි ද?	Is it right or wrong?

5.3 The 'and' particle

There is no single word in Sinhala for 'and' as there is in English. In Sinhala 'and' is expressed by a particle which follows all nouns to be linked.

If the nouns to be linked end in vowels, the 'and' particle takes the shape යි . Examples:

පුතායි දුවයි.	The son and the daughter
මහත්තයායි මමයි.	The gentleman and I

If the nouns to be linked end in consonants, the 'and' particle takes the shape ඌයි . Examples:

බ්‍රවුන් කියලා මහත්තයෙකුයි හේරත් කියලා මහත්තයෙකුයි.	A gentleman named Brown and a gentleman named Herath.
හැන්දකුයි පිහියකුයි.	A spoon and a knife.

5.4 The emphasizing particle යි .

In equational sentences (the type x is y) with adjectives in the 'y' slot, the emphasizing particle යි occurs. Examples:

මේ එලවලු ලාබයි.	These vegetables are cheap.
compare:	
මේ ලාබ එලවලු.	These cheap vegetables.
and	
මේ එලවලු ලාබ ද?	Are these vegetables cheap?

This particle is also added to definite forms of numerals occuring in sentence final position. Examples:

රාත්තලක් රුපියල් දෙකයි.	Two rupees a pound.
සේරුවක් සත හැත්තෑපහයි.	75¢ a measure.
පැකැට් එකක් එකයි පනහයි. එකක්සත පනහයි.	Rs. 1.50 a packet; 50¢ each.
වේලාව අටයි විස්සයි. වේලාව අටයි.	The time is 8:20; the time is 8:00.

Note that in some quantity phrases such as the last two examples යි may appear on two numerals (one of them non-final) in a compound phrase. Such constructions are examples of යි as the 'and' particle (see above).

It is also added to other quantity words which occur in sentence final position:

එයාලා බත් කන්නේ දවසට එක සැරයයි.	They eat rice once a day.
වේලාව දැන් අට තිහයි.	It is 8:30.
සත හැටක් විතරයි.	It is only 60¢.

It may occur with emphasized words in emphatic sentences:

නගුල පාවිච්චි කරන්නේ මෙහෙමයි.	This is how you use the plow.
මම දැන් වැඩ කරන්නේ කොළඹමයි.	It is in Colombo itself that I am now working.

In the environments discussed above, යි does not occur after consonants. Compare:

එලවලු ගණන්.	The vegetables are expensive.
	with
එලවලු ලාබයි.	The vegetables are cheap.

යි may also occur after පුලුවන, 'can', and කැමති , 'like', in sentence final position. Examples:

සීනි දාලා බොන්න කැමතියි.	I like to drink it with sugar.
මට කියාදෙන්න පුලුවනි.	I can explain.

5.5 The emphasizing particles නම් and ම .

The particles නම් and ම may single out a word in the sentence for emphasis. Examples:

මහත්තයා නම් කන්තෝරුවට ගියා. මම ගියේ නෑ.	It was the gentleman who went to the office. I didn't go.
මට නම් මතක නෑ.	I myself do not remember.
අටටම ආපහු එන්න.	Come back precisely at 8:00.

When ම appears at the end of the sentence it becomes මයි . Examples

මම ඉපදුනේ ලංකාවේමයි.	It was in Sri Lanka itself that I was born.
එයා ආපහු ආවේ අටටමයි.	He came back precisely at 8:00.

5.6 The particle හරි.

The particle හරි occurs in the following types of constructions:

a. හරි .... හරි , 'or'.

The word හරි means 'or', or 'either...or', and like the 'and' particle, it follows all words to be linked. For example:

මේ දිතුර එන්නේ ඔයකින් හරි, ගඟකින් හරි වැවකින් හරි.	This water comes from an oya, from a river or from a tank.

b. හරි with question words.

හරි is added to question words to form the following types of new meanings.

කොහේ	where	කොහේ හරි	somewhere or other
කොහොම	how	කොහොම හරි	somehow or other

5.7 The particle වත්

Like හරි the particle වත් is used with question words to form the following types of new meanings.

කොහේ	where	කොහේවත්	anywhere somewhere
කොහොම	how	කොහොමවත්	anyhow somehow

It is also found in constructions which parallel those of හරි ... හරි above.

එයාවත් මමවත් යන්නේ නෑ.	Neither he nor I is going.

6. Numerals and quantity

6.1 Cardinal numerals

Cardinal numerals have both animate and inanimate forms. For example:

නංගිලා තුන් දෙනෙක් ඉන්නවා.	There are three younger sisters.
මම එයාට රුපියල් තුනක් දුන්නා.	I gave him three rupees.

Animate cardinal numerals either modify or substitute for animate nouns. Inanimate numerals either modify or substitute for inanimate nouns. For example:

අක්කලා හතර දෙනයි.	Four older sisters.
හතර දෙනයි.	Four (animate beings).
පෙට්ටි හතරයි.	Four boxes.
හතරයි.	Four (inanimate things).

Both animate and inanimate numerals have definite and indefinite forms. In basic sentence types (that is, non-emphatic sentences) numerals and other quantity words as well generally appear in the indefinite form. When numerals and other quantity words occur as the emphasized items in emphatic sentences or when they are part of a noun phrase which stands along as an utterance, the definite form appears. Compare the following:

වැඩකාරයෝ අට දෙනෙක් රැස්වීමට ආවා.	Eight laborers came to the meeting.
රැස්වීමට ආවේ වැඩකාරයෝ අට දෙනයි.	It was eight laborers who came to the meeting.
වැඩකාරයෝ කීදෙනෙක් ආවා ද?	How many laborers came?
අට දෙනයි.	Eight.
මේ ගමේ ගෙදරවල් පනස් පහක් තියෙනවා.	There are fifty five houses in this village.
ගෙදරවල් කියක් ද?	How many houses are there?
පනස් පහයි.	Fifty-five.

When the quantity phrase has a clearly definite meaning, i.e., 'the laborers' as opposed to 'laborers' or is modified by one of the demonstratives, the definite form may appear in non-final position. For example:

වැඩකාරයෝ අට දෙනා රැස්වීමට ආවා.	The eight laborers came to the meeting.
ඒ අක්කලා හතර දෙනා තවම ගෙදර ඉන්නවා.	Those four older sisters are still at home.

Compare the following:

මහත්තුරු හතර දෙනෙක් කන්තෝරුවේ ඉන්නවා.	There are four gentlemen in the office.
ඒ මහත්තුරු හතර දෙනාම ඉංග්‍රීසි දන්නේ නෑ.	Those very four gentlemen do not know English.

The interrogatives කියක් , 'how many' (inanimate), and කීදෙනෙක්, 'how many' (animate)', introduce questions concerning quantity. කොච්චර , 'how much, how many', may be substituted for either, although it is more common with inanimate subjects. Examples:

කුඹුරුවල ගොවියෝ කීදෙනෙක් වැඩ කරනවා ද?	How many farmers are working in the fields?
ලියකියවිලි කියක් තියෙනවා ද?	How many documents are there?
කොච්චර වේලා යනවා ද?	How much time does it take (go)?

Questions concerning price, age and time are introduced by the interrogative කීය (ද) , 'how much'. Examples :

වේලාව කීය ද?	What time is it?
රාත්තලක් කීය ද?	How much is a pound?
වයස කීය ද?	How old are you, i.e., what is the age?

'At what time?' is expressed by කීය in the dative case.

මහත්තයා කීයට ද එන්නේ?	At what time are you coming, sir?

Quotations of time appear in the definite form followed by the emphasizing particle යි

Examples:

වේලාව කිය ද?	What time is it?
(වේලාව) අටයි.	It is 8:00.
(වේලාව) අටයි විස්සයි.	It is 8:20.
(වේලාව) අට හමාරයි.	It is 8:30.
(වේලාව) දෙකට කාලයි.	It is quarter to 2.

'At a particular time' is expressed with the numeral in the dative case. Examples:

කන්තෝරුව අරින්නේ කියට ද?	At what time does the office open?
ඒක අට හමාරට අරිනවා.	It opens at 8:30.
ඒක හතට අරිනවා.	It opens at 7:00.
ඒක අරින්නේ අටට.	It is at 8:00 that it opens.

Prices are generally quoted as follows:

වම්බොටු කිය ද?	How much is eggplant?
රාත්තලක් හැට පහයි.	65¢ a pound.

Amounts of money are commonly quoted in indefinite quantity phrases:

සල්ලි කියක් දුන්නා ද?	How much money did you pay?
මම රුපියල් හතලිහක් දුන්නා.	I paid Rs. 40.

With the word සැරය , 'time, occurrence', a stem form of the numeral precedes.

එයාලා දවසට දෙ සැරයක් බත් කනවා.	They eat rice twice a day.
යන හැටි එයා කියාදුන්නේ තුන් සැරයයි.	He explained how to go three times.

This stem form also appears with ordinal numerals which are discussed below.

Definite and indefinite forms of animate and inanimate numerals appear below.

	Animate		Inanimate	
	Definite	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite
1	එක්කෙනා	එක්කෙනෙක්	එක	එකක්
2	දෙන්නා	දෙන්නෙක්	දෙක	දෙකක්
3	තුන් දෙනා	තුන් දෙනෙක්	තුන	තුනක්
4	හතර දෙනා	හතර දෙනෙක්	හතර	හතරක්
5	පස් දෙනා	පස් දෙනෙක්	පහ	පහක්
6	හය දෙනා	හය දෙනෙක්	හය	හයක්
7	හත් දෙනා	හත් දෙනෙක්	හත	හතක්
8	අට දෙනා	අට දෙනෙක්	අට	අටක්
9	නම දෙනා	නම දෙනෙක්	නමය	නමයක්
10	දහ දෙනා	දහ දෙනෙක්	දහය	දහයක්
11	එකොළොස් දෙනා	එකොළොස් දෙනෙක්	එකොළහ	එකොළහක්
12	දොළොස් දෙනා	දොළොස් දෙනෙක්	දොළහ	දොළහක්
13	දහතුන් දෙනා	දහතුන් දෙනෙක්	දහතුන	දහතුනක්
14	දාහතර දෙනා	දාහතර දෙනෙක්	දාහතර	දාහතරක්
15	පහළොස් දෙනා	පහළොස් දෙනෙක්	පහළොහ	පහළොහක්
16	දහසය දෙනා	දහසය දෙනෙක්	දහසය	දහසයක්
17	දාහත් දෙනා	දාහත් දෙනෙක්	දාහත	දාහතක්
18	දහඅට දෙනා	දහඅට දෙනෙක්	දහඅට	දහඅටක්
19	දහනම දෙනා	දහනම දෙනෙක්	දහනමය	දහනමයක්
20	විසි දෙනා	විසි දෙනෙක්	විස්ස	විස්සක්

	Animate		Inanimate	
	Definite	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite
21	විසිඑක් දෙනා	විසිඑක් දෙනෙක්	විසිඑක	විසිඑකක්
22	විසිදෙන්නා	විසිදෙන්නෙක්	විසිදෙක	විසිදෙකක්
23	විසිතුන් දෙනා	විසිතුන් දෙනෙක්	විසිතුන	විසිතුනක්
24	විසිහතර දෙනා	විසිහතර දෙනෙක්	විසිහතර	විසිහතරක්
25	විසිපස් දෙනා	විසිපස් දෙනෙක්	විසිපහ	විසිපහක්
26	විසිහය දෙනා	විසිහය දෙනෙක්	විසිහය	විසිහයක්
27	විසිහත් දෙනා	විසිහත් දෙනෙක්	විසිහත	විසිහතක්
28	විසිඅට දෙනා	විසිඅට දෙනෙක්	විසිඅට	විසිඅටක්
29	විසිනම දෙනා	විසිනම් දෙනෙක්	විසිනමය	විසිනමයක්
30	තිස්දෙනා	තිස්දෙනෙක්	තිහ	තිහක්
31	තිස්එක් දෙනා	තිස්එක් දෙනෙක්	තිස්එක	තිස්එකක්
32	තිස්දෙන්නා	තිස්දෙන්නෙක්	තිස්දෙක	තිස්දෙකක්

All other numerals in the thirty series follow the pattern of the twenty series except that තිස් appears instead of විසි

40	හතලිස් දෙනා	හතලිස් දෙනෙක්	හතලිහ	හතලිහක්
41	හතලිස්එක් දෙනා	හතලිස්එක් දෙනෙක්	හතලිස්එක	හතලිස්එකක්
42	හතලිස්දෙන්නා	හතලිස්දෙන්නෙක්	හතලිස්දෙක	හතලිස්දෙකක්

All numerals in the forty series follow the pattern of the twenty series except that හතලිස් appears instead of විසි.

50	පනස්දෙනා	පනස්දෙනෙක්	පනහ	පනහක්
51	පනස්එක් දෙනා	පනස්එක් දෙනෙක්	පනස්එක	පනස්එකක්
52	පනස්දෙන්නා	පනස්දෙන්නෙක්	පනස්දෙක	පනස්දෙකක්

All numerals in the fifty series follow the pattern of the twenty series except that පනස් appears instead of විසි.

	Animate		Inanimate	
	Definite	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite
60	හැටදෙනා	හැටදෙනෙක්	හැට	හැටක්
61	හැටඑක් දෙනා	හැටඑක් දෙනෙක්	හැටඑක	හැටඑකක්
62	හැටදෙන්නා	හැටදෙන්නෙක්	හැටදෙක	හැටදෙකක්

All numerals in the sixty series follow the pattern of the twenty series except that හැට appears instead of විසි.

70	හැත්තැදෙනා	හැත්තැදෙනෙක්	හැත්තැව	හැත්තැවක්
71	හැත්තැඑක් දෙනා	හැත්තැඑක් දෙනෙක්	හැත්තැඑක	හැත්තැඑකක්
72	හැත්තැදෙන්නා	හැත්තැදෙන්නෙක්	හැත්තැදෙක	හැත්තැදෙකක්

All numerals in the seventy series follow the pattern of the twenty series except that හැත්තැ appears instead of විසි.

80	අසුදෙනා	අසුදෙනෙක්	අසුව	අසුවක්
81	අසුඑක් දෙනා	අසුඑක් දෙන්නෙක්	අසුඑක	අසුඑකක්
82	අසුදෙන්නා	අසුදෙන්නෙක්	අසුදෙක	අසුදෙකක්

All numerals in the eighty series follow the pattern of the twenty series except that අසු appears instead of විසි.

90	අනුදෙනා	අනුදෙනෙක්	අනුව	අනුවක්
91	අනුඑක් දෙනා	අනුඑක් දෙනෙක්	අනුඑක	අනුඑකක්
92	අනුදෙන්නා	අනුදෙන්නෙක්	අනුදෙක	අනුදෙකක්

All numerals in the ninety series follow the pattern of the twenty series except that අනු appears instead of විසි.

100	එකසියදෙනා	එකසියදෙනෙක්	එකසිය	එකසියක්
101	එකසියඑක් දෙනා	එකසියඑක් දෙනෙක්	එකසියඑක	එකසියඑකක්

For the rest of the numerals in the 100+ series එකසිය- , '100', is prefixed to the numerals to 99.

Below are the prefixes for the additional hundred series to 1000.

200 දෙසිය

300 තුන්සිය

400 හාරසිය

500 පන්සිය

600 හයසිය

700 හත්සිය

800 අටසිය

900 නමසිය

They precede the numerals to 99 in expressing quantities to 1000.

The stem form for 1000 is එක්දාස් . This is prefixed to the numerals of the 900 series in expressing the years of this century.

එක්දාස් නමසිය විස්සයි.	One thousand nine hundred and twenty.
එක්දාස් නමසිය හැටපහයි.	1965.
එක්දාස් නමසිය හැත්තැඅටයි.	1978.

To express 'in such and such a year', the final numeral is put in the genitive case and optionally followed by දී, 'during'.

එක්දාස් නමසිය හැටපහේ.	In 1965.
එක්දාස් නමසිය හැත්තැහතේ දී, මම ලංකාවට ආවා.	I came to Sri Lanka in 1977.
මම ඉපදුනේ එක්දාස් නමසිය හතලිස් හයේ දී.	I was born in 1946.

6.2 Ordinal numerals

Ordinal numerals from 1-10 are given below.

1st	පළවෙනි
2nd	දෙවෙනි
3rd	තුන්වෙනි
4th	හතරවෙනි
5th	පස්වෙනි
6th	හයවෙනි
7th	සත්වෙනි
8th	අටවෙනි
9th	නමවෙනි
10th	දහවෙනි

Ordinal numerals are formed with the stem of the numeral plus වෙනි . The stem form is the one which precedes දෙක in animate numerals. Ordinal numerals precede either animate or inanimate numerals with no change in form. Examples:

සැප්තැම්බර් මාසේ අටවෙනිදා.	The eighth day of September, i.e., September 8.
අගෝස්තු මාසේ විසිඑක්වෙනිදා.	The twenty-first day of August, i.e, August 21.
දෙවෙනි පාර.	The second road.
තුන්වෙනි පුතා.	The third son.

7. Word boundaries

The writing conventions in Sinhala are fairly straightforward in general. Spaces generally appear before and after inflected forms of nouns and verbs as well as before and after other parts of speech such as adjectives, postpositions and adverbs. Conventions differ in some instances, for example, in the addition of some particles to other parts of speech, in writing numerals and in writing compound verbs. For example:

තානාපති තුමා සිංහල දන්නවා ලු.	The ambassador evidently knows Sinhala.
තානාපති තුමා සිංහල දන්නවාලු.	
විසි දෙකයි.	Twenty-two.
විසිදෙකයි.	
එයාලා කුරක්කන් ගල පාවිච්චි කරනවා.	They are using the rotary quern.
එයාලා කුරක්කන් ගල පාවිච්චිකරනවා.	
එයාලා කන්තෝරුවේ වැඩ කරනවා.	They are working in the office.
එයාලා කන්තෝරුවේ වැඩකරනවා.	

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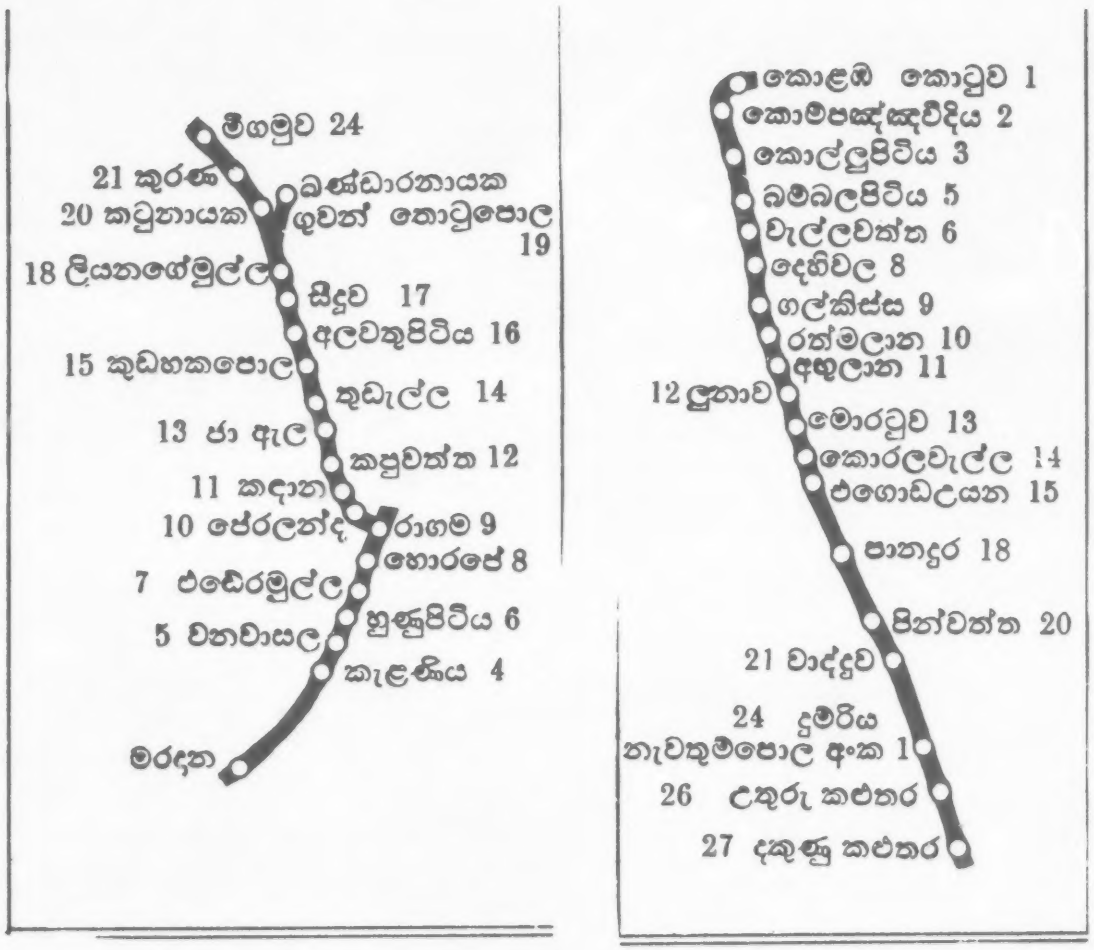
8. Spelling

Sinhala words are generally spelled as pronounced, but some sounds are represented by more than one letter. For example, න and ණ both represent /n/; ල and ළ both represent /l/ and ලු and ළු both represent /lu/. Sometimes words are spelled both ways, and sometimes there is a preferred spelling. When in doubt, consult a dictionary. Examples of these particular spelling variations appear below in the place names along two major railway lines.



-from Ceylon Government Railway timetable

Numerous other spelling variations occur in Sinhala, mostly in connection with borrowed or learned words. For example, both ශ and ෂ represent /ś/; both ය and ඹ represent /y/ and many words which are pronounced with unaspirated consonants have a correct spelling with letters from the aspirated set. These matters are not treated in any detail here and are best taken up in connection with the study of the conventions of literary Sinhala.

Some differences in spelling of what are essentially the same words do reflect differences in pronunciation and stem from dialect variation within the Sinhala speech community. For example:

කොළොම්බුව, කොලොඹුව	stool
අප්පච්චි, අප්පෙච්චි	father
පොල් කට්ට, පොල් කටුව	coconut shell

Finally, this may be the place to remind students that Class D nouns such as කාලේ , 'time', which end in ේ have dictionary entry forms with -ය . Hence, කාලය , 'time'. This is a convention from written Sinhala.

9. Style and dialect

This book has reviewed some of the main features of spoken Sinhala structure. Written Sinhala has a different grammatical structure and also, to a large extent, a different and expanded lexicon and is not dealt with here. This lexicon is borrowed into speech for certain social purposes, for example for speeches or formal lectures on cultural affairs. A student of Sinhala who intends one day to deliver such lectures, then, must master the appropriate formal lexicon. For a student with such objectives, the study of written Sinhala is an indispensible aid and guide. There are many synopses of written Sinhala structure available, most of them written for speakers of the language. Two which are written for students of Sinhala as a second language are Literary Sinhala: An Introduction (1975) by D.D. DeSaram, and Literary Sinhala (1974) by J.W. Gair and W.S. Karunatilaka (for further details, see the citations in the appended bibliography.)

Most students aim simply to understand the Sinhala which is spoken around them on the routine topics of daily life and work by employees, colleagues and friends. They also aim to communicate with such individuals on the same topics in a stylistically appropriate manner. The style which is presented in this book has been adopted with these ends in mind. In working through Basic Sinhala, the vocabulary of the students will be expanded considerably beyond the material which is actually presented. It should be kept consistent with the style presented here. Substitutions from

formal Sinhala should be avoided in favor of words which are in more general use.

The Sinhala speech community is contained within a relatively small geographical area, and the population is highly mobile. Perhaps for these reasons, the community lacks deep dialect divisions. There is variation, of course, and the major differences have been noted at various points above. But for the most part, the Sinhala spoken in one area of Sri Lanka can be easily understood in another.

10. Bibliographical references for the student and the instructor.

The following resources are available for supplementing or continuing basic instruction in Sinhala.

Carter, Charles, English-Sinhalese Dictionary; Sinhalese
1936 (1965) English Dictionary. 2 volumes. M.D. Gunasena: Colombo.

This is the basic bilingual dictionary. It has been through several printings since Carter completed it in 1891. It contains a detailed botanical supplement. It is most useful as an aid in decoding since words from the full stylistic range are represented. It is less useful as an aid in encoding since stylistic alternants are not labeled or graded.

Fairbanks, Gordon, J.W. Gair and M. W. S. de Silva, Colloquial
1968 Sinhalese. 2 volumes. South Asia Program, Cornell University: Ithaca, New York.

This is an introduction to the Sinhala spoken by educated speakers in most normal communication. It contains thirty-six lessons in dialogue format with accompanying grammatical explanations and exercises. The first twelve lessons are in romanization; the remainder are in script. (First volume now unavailable, but likely to be reprinted. Contact South Asia Program, Cornell University.)

Gair, James W. and W.S. Karunatilaka, Literary Sinhala. South
1974 Asia Program, Cornell University: Ithaca, New York.

This is a basic introduction to written Sinhala for the second language student. Fifteen lessons with texts and grammatical explanations.

Saram, D.D. de, Literary Sinhala: An Introduction. Department
1975 of Sinhala, University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya.

This is a basic introduction to written Sinhala for the second language student. Fifteen lessons with accompanying grammatical notes and exercises.

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